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MR. SPEAKER :—“ The change introduced by the Hon. the Finance Minister is this—

‘ That item No. 9 will become item No. 10 and item No. 10 will become item No. 9.’

I take it that nobody objects to the change.

“ I now put the Hon. the Finance Minister’s motion as altered by him to the vote of the House.”

The motion was put and carried.

IV.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1952-53.

(1) DEMAND XXIX—FAMINE.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— 11 a.m.
“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

‘ That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,000 under Demand XXIX—Famine.’

“ I will briefly explain the Demand. This Demand has been given precedence over all other Demands, because famine is now engaging the attention of all the people. The famine for which this Demand is made is not like the famine which we used to have all these years. This is a famine coming after five years of continuous drought, and naturally the technique of relief operations has to be changed. The technique of work is changed from time to time to suit the circumstances in all walks of life—war, Government, politics and even in the working of Opposition parties. To tackle this famine successfully, a particular technique has to be adopted. In ordinary famines, the distress was alleviated by putting into operation the Madras Famine Code. But the relief operations for the present extraordinary famine have to take a different form. Under the provisions of the Famine Code, relief could not be extended to all. Therefore we had to resort to a method under which relief could be extended to all the people affected by famine. There is an undue amount of rigidity in the Famine Code which we could not afford to follow. There is expense involved in relief operations and works have to be taken up with reference to the actual need of the locality. It involves the employment of a separate staff at great cost. Then again, roads formed by famine labour are often left uncared for as they are not really required for local conditions, and the local bodies whose duty it is to maintain them, are not in a position to undertake their maintenance. The present policy is to carry out works of permanent utility, works which form part of the normal programme, viz., P.W.D. works, minor irrigation works, rural water-supply works, etc., to provide employment for labourers in distress who are paid on the basis of outturn. Under the Famine Code, only a bare subsistence can be given. But now we are giving a wage of Re. 0-12-0 to Rs. 1-8-0 per adult per day. Again, gratuitous relief

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is provided by the opening of gruel centres which cater to the needs of those who are physically or otherwise unable to work. Advances under the Land Improvements Act and the Agricultural Loans Act are given on a very large scale. Land Revenue collection in all famine-affected villages was suspended and then it was remitted. Collection of loan instalments and cesses has been postponed. Subsidy for deepening private wells has been granted, fodder has been imported from outside and a Special Officer has been appointed to look after the work. Hon. Members will see that the quantum of relief per individual will be greater under the present policy than what will be possible to give under the Famine Code. The State stands to benefit by this arrangement, as most of the works taken up will have to be executed either now or in the near future. Provision of drinking water also has been attended to. We are thankful to the Central Government and the Army Units for coming at the nick of time and affording help for deepening such wells as could not ordinarily be deepened by civil employees. The Army Units have been shifted from Rayalaseema to the Tamil districts, where also famine conditions prevail. I have narrated the broad basis of our famine relief operations. I have given a general idea. I shall go into the details when I reply to the speeches on the cut motion."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I rise on a point of order, Sir. The point struck me as the Hon. Minister was moving the Demand and hence I could not bring it to your notice earlier.

" The point of order is that the Government should ask for money for the total expenditure involved, including the amount that they propose to transfer from the Famine Relief Fund, and not merely for a portion of the expenditure. That they have some source of getting money other than current revenues is no reason why they should not ask for the entire amount of expenditure anticipated under the head ' Famine '. A similar question was raised on the floor of the Central Legislature and I think the Hon. the Finance Minister there conceded that the Demand should be for the entire amount of the expenditure anticipated. I think that our Finance Department and the Hon. the Finance Minister will do well to follow that practice."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am grateful for the suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition. We thought that it would do if the Demand was for the amount which we would be drawing from the current revenues, as was usually done before. This is purely a technical matter. Though the Demand is only for Rs. 48,000, the discussion could cover the entire field. I am prepared to take the suggestion into consideration and see whether we cannot follow it."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Then, the discussion may be proceeded with."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" Motion moved—

' That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,000 under Demand XXIX—Famine.'

" I have allotted four hours for this Demand. I will call the Hon. Minister for Revenue to reply at 4-30 p.m. I think half an hour will do for his reply though I have no objection to allow him more time if necessary. The time allotted for each speaker is ten minutes."

SRI LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" Sir, I submit that ten minutes for each speaker is not sufficient."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I know that. But I have to give an opportunity to speak to as large a number of Members as possible."

* SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

' That the allotment of Rs. 48,000 for Famine be reduced by Rs. 100.'

" The Budget Estimate for 1952-53 provides for an expenditure of Rs. 73 lakhs on famine relief. Credit has been taken for an anticipated recovery from the Central Government of Rs. 17½ lakhs. The balance of expenditure is to be met by drawing Rs. 55 lakhs from the Famine Relief Fund. It is also proposed to make a contribution of Rs. 5 lakhs to the Fund as required by the Act of 1936. Though the explanations in the Budget Memorandum give an idea of what has been done in the previous years and the different items of work carried out, we are not told clearly about the policy of the Government for the year under discussion.

" It is an accepted maxim that prevention is better than cure. But all that has been done seems to have been done taking famine conditions as granted. Under this Head, a lump-sum provision is made for a few major items of work, but no details are given. In spite of all the energy and money spent on famine relief, famine cannot be eradicated permanently as there is no definite scheme towards that end. We must lay emphasis on the prevention of famine. The policy laid down long long ago in the year 1860 is still in force. Nearly a century has passed. Two world wars have devastated the world, ideas have changed, population has increased enormously, rulers have changed. Yet the Famine Code is still unchanged! It is an accepted fact that the dole system under the Famine Code has only a demoralising effect.

" Famine in India has been defined as 'only the exceptional aggravation of normal misery.' Though Rayalaseema districts are considered a chronically famine area, there are other districts in the State where famine is endemic, like Salem, North Arcot, South Arcot, Coimbatore and my own unfortunate district of Ramnathapuram. Formerly, when there were severe famine conditions,

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people used to migrate to Africa, Ceylon and Burma. But all those countries are now closed to India. So we must create such conditions as will induce the ryots to remain and work on their farms in their own native districts. What are the causes that lead to famine? The natural causes are want of seasonal rains, continuous drought and destruction of crops by pests and vermin. The widespread poverty of our agriculturists, their unemployment during the off-season, lack of credit facilities for purchasing implements, etc., in time and lack of transport facilities aggravate the conditions.

"Nearly 80 per cent of our people depend upon agriculture for their livelihood. We have not developed cottage or any other industries to keep the agriculturists engaged during the off-season. If one monsoon fails, the position of the agriculturist becomes very difficult. He has nothing to eat or fall back upon. There is scarcity of drinking-water also. The agriculturists are selling away their land to local Shylocks. The land problem must be solved without any delay."

11-15
a.m.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I hear a buzzing noise, and I do not hear the hon. Member clearly at all."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"The doors may be opened, Sir. That is what the Radio Engineering department has said."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have no objection to the doors being kept open."

(The doors of the Assembly chamber were then opened.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member Mr. V. V. Ramasami will now speak."

* SRI V. V. RAMASAMI:—"He has no reserve of his previous crop and no money to purchase his food which may be got from other channels. This poverty grinds him and makes him weak, and in the end he dies a miserable death. The ten famines in India between 1860 and 1900 are estimated to have resulted in fifteen million deaths. How to prevent such calamities?

"Though the rain is widespread, it does not come in time when most needed, and where wanted badly, nor in sufficient quantity. That is the vagary of Nature, trying all of us sore. For the past year or more drinking-water supply also has been threatened throughout the State. Yet man is trying to conquer Nature either by challenging its course or collaborating with it.

"Whatever little rain-water we get, we must conserve it. Apart from the major irrigation schemes, minor irrigation works must be the main drive in our policy for the year. Following the decontrol policy, we must do everything to step up production of foodgrains. Every tank must be restored and kept in good repair by helping the ryots financially or otherwise. Local loans may be raised for particular works to be repaired from out of the taxes collected from the area. Contour bunds should be provided in the fields so as to make the rain water stagnate and cool the thirsty

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lands. In most cases the tanks have become silted up and the ayacut area increased. Instead of wasting money on excavating or deepening of the tanks, it is advisable to raise the *kalingal* and also to raise the bund proportionately. There is no sense in raising the bunds alone as is done now. A large amount of money is spent on tank repair schemes. Dykes, dams or causeways may be constructed across small rivers and rivulets wherever the levels permit. This will help to store water within the channel bed without submerging lands or villages. Thus the adjoining habitations, tanks, and wells will be assured of water supply.

"The irrigation tanks constructed by our forefathers in South India are peculiar and such works are not to be seen anywhere else in the whole world. We talk of great irrigation schemes in this generation! What about the great scheme executed by Karikala Cholan 2,000 years ago? So one need not turn to the West nor pry into the books. If one goes round the country parts and villages, one will find with how much forethought and skill our ancestors have carried out so many amenities with the sole object of producing food and keeping the people free from hunger!

"Sir, our agricultural methods are still primitive. Modern methods should be adopted so as to satisfy the needs of the times. On account of the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act, rural credit channel has dried up. Lands are slowly changing hands from the actual tiller to the local Shylock. And there is no escape for the agriculturist from all these difficulties. Steps must be taken to give facilities to the ryots to enable them to preserve what they get from their land. We hear, Sir, so much of national savings. We are asked to save from our cash earnings and contribute to the National Savings Certificates, post office certificates, provident fund schemes, insurance schemes and also our Government loans. These are all paper moneys. The values ascend and descend, and prove to be of no use when enough food is not available in the area around. Food must be produced, saved, and stored for future contingencies. Nature has taught us a severe lesson. Monsoons have failed. Every ryot must save and store what he can afford to, and thus augment the resources and wealth of the State. If he cannot store, the State, or the State-aided institutions, must undertake the task of maintaining reserve supplies. Human instinct has been working on this line from the beginning of civilization. The ancient people who lived in lower Egypt about 12,000 B.C. have used underground granaries and the storage of grain in conical structures has been systematically carried out under expert supervision. The storage in underground granaries has also been in vogue in our country. I am told that millets used to be stored like that for more than five years in Ceded districts. In my parts also, paddy is being stored for more than two years. Now, wherefrom and how to get the grains for stocking as reserve supplies? The Economics and Statistics Department of our Government is doing very useful work. It has published many useful publications, and they are well appreciated throughout our country. The Economic Adviser has published a scheme of crop insurance for the State of Madras. The scheme

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is limited to paddy to start with. The premium may be paid in kind, i.e., paddy. If the scheme is accepted and the premium is collected in time, and the land revenue also is collected in kind—paddy and other foodgrains—the grains thus acquired can well be stored and preserved. With such reserves famine can be warded off permanently and effectively. If the ryot gets a guarantee of a reasonable price, and the public are assured of supply, the cost of production will be lessened. The amount of money required for famine relief will go down from year to year. Also, I am told the scheme will bring to the treasury a net revenue of one crore of rupees per annum. I submit that it is for the Government to consider this scheme, and, if necessary, a committee may be appointed to go into this.

“ Before I close I want to place before the House the pregnant words of Saint Tiruvalluvar, namely,—

‘இரந்தும் உயிர் வாழ்தல் வேண்டின் பரந்து
கெடுக உலகியற்றி யான்’

He says that ‘if anyone is to live only by begging, even the Creator will perish’.

“ Again he says—

‘உறுபசியும், ஓவாப்பினியும் செறுபகையும்
சேரா தியல்வது நாடு’

He says, ‘if acute hunger, incurable disease, and foreign aggression, are prevalent in a State, that State cannot be called a State.’ We know, Sir, the great poet Bharati. He has said—

‘தனி ஒருவனுக்கு உணவிலில்ல யெனில்
ஜெகத்தினை அழித்திருவோம்’

Bharati is a great poet, and the Congress Party has derived all inspiration from him. They will be true to their faith if they follow his words and try to bring in measures which would ward off famine.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ The question is—

‘ That the allotment of Rs. 48,000 for Famine be reduced by Rs. 100.’

The practice is that one hon. Member will move the cut motion and others will speak on it. The main motion and the cut motion are now before the House for discussion.”

* SRI V. CHIDANANDAM :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are now discussing Famine in general. A sum of Rs. 48,000 has been allotted, and famine is to be averted by spending Rs. 48,000. This is not enough to stop famine even in one taluk. Several works have been started. The Government are thinking of stopping all works in the famine areas. Famine has been creeping in gradually for the last five years, and in Rayalaseema, it has been more severe last year. (At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.) Several months after famine crept in, the Government opened their eyes and began to do something. By that time some people had left the area. Now that rains have come, though some

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parts have not at all received rains, on the plea that there has been much rain in some parts, famine works are to be stopped. It is not right at this stage. Till the first harvest of the crop is over, famine works should not be stopped. Famine must be stopped for ever. In Rayalaseema, the major portion of the area is a dry area. The people are hard workers. In ordinary years, when there is rain now and then, they live somehow or other. When there is no rain, all the dry lands fail. The wet area under tank irrigation, when they received water, somehow yielded paddy and the people were getting on. For the last three years after the floods in 1949, there has not been rain, and continuous famine was there. Last year, the people who had not known famine for 50 or 60 years, suffered a good deal. Famine could be averted by taking up irrigation works, forming new tanks, and completing projects wherever they are possible. Though investigation has been completed in several cases and plans and estimates have been ready, the Government do not care to take them up, or complete even any one of them. In Cuddapah district, though the Gandikota project was there, with an idea to link it up with the Krishna-Pennar project, it was not at all taken up. The reasons for not executing this project are known only to the Government. The public are rather fed up with the reasons that are now given for stopping that work. There are the three projects, namely, the Badenagadda project, the Kanchalamma Gandhi project and the Lower Sagileru project. All the three projects would irrigate some thousands of acres. These have not been taken up. The Lower Sagileru project can irrigate 10,000 acres. If possible two crops can be raised, if this project is completed. Recently, in reply to a question by Mr. Sivarami Reddy, the Hon. the Minister for Irrigation said that further investigation was to be made. One year and four months back, i.e., in about February 1951, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation was on camp at the site. He inspected the dam site, approved of the plans and estimates with small changes, and then he promised to recommend the project to the Government, and see that it was taken up very soon. But now I am surprised to hear that it is to be investigated further. Several new tanks have to be formed. One new tank for Itukullapadu village in Badvel taluk and another tank for Bhakarapet in the Siddhout taluk were ready for execution, but have been stopped on the plea that the cost is prohibitive. Our districts are in the famine area, and profit alone should not be the consideration. Not even one per cent profit is to be expected. I do not know why the projects have been stopped. It is in that way famine is man-made. The Government have neglected some areas completely and have been improving some other areas in a concentrated manner. When funds are collected from all corners of the State and from all people, they are giving the benefit of the money to one area alone and not to others. I have already said the other day that in my area nothing has been done, and even works that could be done have been stopped and avoided. In my area there are no road facilities and in these days of famine, if people want to get grains from other districts and from other taluks, there is no road facility. Recently, construction of some roads has been

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started. I request the Government not to stop them but form long roads, and to give aid to make them metalled roads so that they may be permanently maintained. If that is done, even if famine comes in future, somehow lorries and carts can go over these roads carrying foodgrains.

"Then, to avert famine permanently, there is the Maderu Project and investigation has been going on. Also the Savisetipalli tank is being investigated. The Kammavaripalli tank is being investigated. I hope that the Government will take them up instead of postponing them or dropping them for ever on the plea that the cost is prohibitive. It seems investigation of a tank for Ramapuram in Badvel taluk was started but was afterwards stopped. I request it may be taken up again. Investigation of the Ambavaram tank and Mallepalli tank may also be started and completed. New tank for Varikuntla and Balayapalli tank breach closing may be taken up. The Ompalli tank and the supply channel to Nagisetipalli tank have to be taken up. Vogur-Vakamda Project has been completed at a cost of Rs. 4 lakhs. It irrigates 2,000 or 3,000 acres. During the recent floods in 1949, Pennar bed has been deepened and the channel has been washed away. So much so, water does not rise to the level of the channel and the ryots had to keep their lands waste. Otherwise, those lands would yield a bumper crop of paddy. Even now, on their representations nothing has been done for repairing the channel. A memorandum has been submitted to the Hon. the Minister for Public Works and the ryots promise to pay Rs. 1 lakh if a dam across the river Pennar at that project site is constructed and water made to rise to the level of the channel. I hope that will be considered. There are several other small projects and tanks whose construction can usefully be taken up. If they are all constructed, then famine will never occur again in that taluk.

"Sir, our elders have told us that there was a famine some 75 years ago in Dhatu and another severe famine in Kara samvat-saram. Afterwards, a total famine did not occur. There was some drought here and there, and somehow people were getting on. But this time there is an all round famine. Many districts have been affected. Therefore, I request the Government to take up the execution of the projects I have mentioned and try to avert famine.

"During the present famine, loans were given. They were not distributed equally in all the areas. People in one-half of the area were given loans and those in the other half were neglected. In some places the full amount of Rs. 200 was given as subsistence loan and in some other places, only Rs. 50, Rs. 40, or Rs. 10 were given. The Loans Tahsildars mismanaged the whole affair. Some people got 5 or 6 loans and some did not at all get a loan. Hence the Loans Tahsildars are suspected. I hope that the matter will be investigated and action will be taken to see that the loan amounts are equally distributed among the suffering people."

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* SRI P. NARASIMHA REDDI :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to condemn this meagre Demand for Famine Relief that has been moved. Very few people here know what actually the position in Rayalaseema districts to-day is. We have had no rains from 1948 onwards. Every year the monsoon failed and consequently the crops failed. Everywhere there is no food, fodder or employment, for the people. All classes of people have been affected by this famine. Not only the labourers, poor peasants and middle class people but also the rich ryots are suffering. Apart from that, I want to bring to the notice of the House that a good number of students have left the schools in Rajampet taluk and the average attendance in the elementary schools in that part of Rayalaseema has fallen. Nearly 150 students have discontinued their studies. Nearly 20,000 people have migrated from Rajampet taluk to other parts of the country where employment can be secured. People have migrated to far-off Assam, to Gudur Mica Works and to the Tungabhadra Project Works. This is the case in Rayachoti taluk and more so in Chittoor district. Large groups of trees, especially orange trees costing some crores of rupees, have withered away. I want to mention here that an orange garden means the putting forth of ten years' labour. So, these people cannot make up the loss for ten years to come. When the people were undergoing all these sufferings, suddenly rains came last month and as a result, in Cuddapah district alone nearly 70,000 cattle died in three days, more than 16,000 cattle died in Rajampet taluk and more than 17,000 cattle died in Rayachoti taluk.

“ Sir, this famine is recurring. The two main causes of this famine are the failure of monsoon and the continued negligence rather the chronic negligence of the Government to take steps to avert it. There are two ways of preventing this famine. They are the adoption of immediate and long-range measures. One such measure is the construction of projects. Have the Government undertaken the construction of any projects in Rayalaseema? There are the Badinagadda and Gandikota Projects. What have the Government done in this regard? They have only dropped out of the intensive food production area some of the Rayalaseema districts. Cuddapah district has been dropped out from it. As a result, we do not get the benefit of even the few minor irrigation works which we used to enjoy previously. To add to this, the Government are submerging various parts of the district while constructing projects for others who are comparatively well off. They are going to undertake the Krishna-Pennar Project which will entail the submerging of a large portion of my constituency. The entire Siddhout taluk, portions of Rajampet and Badvel taluks are going to be submerged. Thus, when we are asking for priority to be given to projects in the Rayalaseema districts, far from conceding it, they are submerging our dear fields, gardens and houses and asking us to leave them. This is the kind of relief we are getting from the Government.

“ I now come to other relief measures like the grant of subsistence loans, loans for deepening of wells and the starting of

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gruel centres. I want to ask how many applicants have been granted subsistence loans and loans for deepening of wells. I may tell the House that not even 25 per cent of the applicants have been granted these loans and even those who have been granted have not been given the full amount. If the amount granted is Rs. 200, only Rs. 100 is given to the person concerned, and if it is Rs. 100, only Rs. 50 is given. It is said as an excuse that the amount will be given in two instalments. But I know in Cuddapah district at least, the second instalment is not given. There is also lot of corruption. It is an open secret that unless a poor peasant spends Rs. 40 to Rs. 50, he cannot get one subsistence loan. It is an open secret that he has to pay Rs. 10 to karnam and others, in order to get a subsistence loan. Even the application forms for these loans are being blackmarketed. One has to purchase these application forms, paying As. 6 to Re. 1-2-0. Then, these loans are given to those only who own lands. But there are a good number of agricultural labourers, artisans and others who have not got enough to eat. They want loans but they are not getting them. Only the rich men are getting loans for deepening wells and not the poor peasants. For this purpose, the value of the land is underestimated. If the value of the land is Rs. 1,000, the Tahsildar says that it is worth only Rs. 500 and the poor peasant does not get the loan. If the records are called for, I can show thousands of cases where the rich men who applied for loans got them within a week or within a month whereas the poor peasants did not get them for three or four months. If a comparative study is made, the Hon. Minister in charge can understand it. I can show a number of cases where applications for these loans were not attended to. This is how the people are discouraged from applying for these loans.

"Sir, we have got only 81 gruel centres for a population of 2 lakhs in Rajampet taluk where the necessity is for 140 centres. The Government promise that, wherever necessary, gruel centres will be opened. But it is not fulfilled in practice. We requested the Governor, when he came to our place, to open at least 100 gruel centres. Still only 81 centres are functioning there. Further, the Government say that they are thinking of closing down gruel centres if the strength falls below 20. But even in centres where there is an attendance of 400 or 500 persons, the Government are thinking of clubbing them together. I know corruption is rampant even in the running of gruel centres. That has been brought to the notice of the authorities concerned but no action has been taken.

"I now come to the subject of minor irrigation works. Only the other day we were told that the Lower Sagileru Project had not been sanctioned and that only the canal work had been sanctioned. What is the use of the canal if there is no project? Is it simply for drainage that the canal work has been sanctioned? When the Governor came to Rajampet, we were told that the Government were going to undertake the construction of the project and that the entire labour of Cuddapah could be engaged on it. But to-day we are told that only the canal work has been

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sanctioned. Probably this area is going to be submerged for the purpose of the Krishna-Pennar Project. I do not know what the real cause is.

"Coming to the question of fodder, there is great necessity for it everywhere. But there is great delay in supplying it and when rains come, one or two wagons of fodder are brought and it is said that fodder is being supplied. Really if fodder had been supplied in time, our district would not have lost 70,000 cattle within three days.

"When famine conditions exist, there is no declaration of moratorium. Private money-lenders are squeezing money out of the poor peasants. Of course, the Government have postponed the collection of takavi and other loans. But why can't they declare moratorium in the Rayalaseema districts at least for two years to come?

"Then, in Rajampet taluk alone, there are about 2,000 families of toddy-tappers. They are requesting permits for tapping sweet toddy, but Government have denied them. The trees are being felled by the hungry people and their tender stems are eaten to satisfy their hunger. I do not know why those people have not been permitted to tap sweet toddy. This is how people of one part of the country are discriminated against. We have been guaranteed under the provisions of Article 14 of the Constitution that all citizens will be treated equally. But here is a case where there is discrimination between people of one part of the country and others which is a violation of fundamental rights. The other day we were told that no permission for tapping sweet toddy will be given in Cuddapah district. Are the people of Cuddapah condemned people? This is how things are taking place. So far as the relief measures are concerned, I do not say that gruel centres are not necessary. They are necessary for the time being. But I want to stress that the Government must undertake major measures like Badinagadda and Gandikota Projects. The Government must undertake these measures so that a large number of people who belong to these areas can be effectively given relief. Unless the Government take effective and immediate steps, people will not keep quiet for long. Already, we have heard of demonstrations in Chandragiri, Kadiri and Tadpatri. If the Government continue to neglect the people of those areas, a situation will come when these poor people will be compelled to resort to direct action, because of their hunger. I think the Government will not create such a situation. The people of Rayalaseema area are generally mild. If, driven by hunger, they resort to direct action, they will go to any extent. I hope the Government will not create such a situation and will take measures of a permanent nature by constructing major projects."

11-45
a.m.

* SRI P. SELVARAJ :—"Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise on this occasion not only to support and approve of the grant fully, but also to persuade the Government to allot more money for famine relief work. Sir, famine is the worst type of calamity that could face any nation. Incidentally, it will paralyse the economy

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and structure of the society also. In the famine area, cattle, human beings and everybody will be greatly affected. Agriculturists who live upon the produce raised from lands have to sell away some of their cattle first, and those that remain only tell a tale of woe, a little later. Having sold all their cattle, they next mortgage their lands to somebody and get some money. Thus, they fall an easy prey to the money-lenders who will always be at their door for the money that they have lent and the interest thereon. Such famines suck the blood of the poor people. They have to migrate to other places for their food and employment. While doing so, they are weakened and they fall a prey to various kinds of diseases. Not only do these people fall a prey to diseases, but others also get some of these diseases from these people. Thus, famine and pestilence are necessary concomitants. Mostly, these famines affect only dry areas. Wet lands are being irrigated by tanks and other possible sources. So the dry lands alone are affected by famines. In the constituency which I have the honour to represent, namely, Vilathikulam, there was an acute famine for about two to three years. There was utter desolation in that area and human beings could not be seen in the fields for miles and miles together. Many of the people also deserted their villages and went in search of food to estates and other foreign places like Malaya and Ceylon. It is the duty of the Government to afford relief in such famine-stricken areas. Those people who have personally known what famine is, could realize the difficulties of the poor people in these areas. People who are having their kith and kin in the famine areas can also understand the difficulties of the suffering people in the famine areas. For that matter, I know how the people of my constituency suffered for two years on account of famine. Our Government were no doubt pleased to take some relief measures, but I am sorry to observe that those measures were not fully implemented.

“Coming to the measures which the Government should take to ameliorate the conditions of the people in the famine-stricken area, I would like to point out that in addition to major projects like the Manimuthar Project, the Government should pay greater attention to minor irrigation works. There are many tanks in my constituency, which have not been properly repaired and even if they were repaired, the supply channel remained unrepaired. As a result of this, the water that the rains give could not be stored properly in an adequate measure. For instance, there are tanks in villages called விளாத்திகுளம், ஆற்றங்கரை (Vilathikulam and Atrankarai). The Government have not paid much attention to these tanks which are in a very bad state. They have repaired these tanks but not their supply channels. The ryots of this place have sent in representations to the Government for attending to these tanks. But we are told that the scheme is still under the ‘revised estimates’ stage. They are revising and re-revising the estimates. This process is going on, and they have not yet come to any definite conclusion. In this connexion, I would like to point out that the Government must take immediate steps to repair such tanks then and there. If they allowed

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such tanks to continue to be in a bad state of repair for a very long time, they may have to spend larger amounts for repairing these tanks at a later date. So, the maxim, 'a stitch in time saves nine' must be the guiding factor for the Government. If they undertook such repair work then and there, it will minimize the cost of repairs.

"Coming to other relief measures, like the taking up of road works, I wish to say a few words. When there was famine in our area, a road work between Vilathikulam and Vembar was originally undertaken. Sometime later, by the grace of God, we got a shower of rain. At once the Collector wrote to the Government that there was no famine and so the road work could be stopped. The Government, which took a very long time to consider our request, immediately on receipt of the report from the Collector stopped this road work. So, this work remains incomplete. The earthwork has been done, but before metal-work could be taken up, the Collector had reported that there was no famine in that constituency. As a result of this, even the earthwork that was completed, got washed away by the rains and the Government have now to spend some more money for the earth-work also. If they are really mindful and serious in giving relief to the ryots, they must take up the earth work and metal work immediately.

"The Government have no doubt been gracious enough to sanction takkavi and other subsistence loans to the people in the famine areas. It is a very good thing for improving the lot of those people. It is not possible for these people to repay these in a short time, because, they have been suffering on account of such famines for a long time. Besides, there are money-lenders who will always be waiting at the doors of these poor people to collect the money or the interest on the money which they might have lent to them.

"Sir, in my constituency, there is a river called Vaipar. Fortunately or unfortunately, during the time of famine, the river was on many occasions in full floods and people even began to curse Government saying that when they were suffering for water, it was being allowed to go waste. If, as suggested by hon. Member Sri Kosalram, a dam is constructed across this river, I am sure the water that is now flowing into the sea without any use to anybody can be stored and utilized for irrigation and other purposes. If this is done, that part of the area could be made self-sufficient."

* SRI H. B. ARI GOWDER :—"Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rayalaseema seems to be an unfortunate area that is visited by famine periodically showing thereby that sufficient steps have not been taken to prevent the recurrence of famine conditions there. It is regrettable indeed. But, the only remedy now lies in relieving the distress of the people as far as possible. There is one thing in the statement of the Hon. the Finance Minister, to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. He has stated that the possibility of eventually writing off much of the

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loans advanced to the people there cannot be ruled out. He has suggested thereby that people should apply for exemption in due course. Everybody is sympathetic towards the people of those areas. By making that statement the Finance Minister seems to have thought that normal conditions in those areas will not be restored or it may be that he is showing more of sentiment than care as the guardian and custodian of the finances of this State. What is necessary is not to write off these loans as often as they are given, but to collect them back and put them in the reserve, from out of which the Government could meet the cost of taking up permanent and effective remedial measures for preventing the recurrence of such famine conditions in those areas. I wish that the Government take some such steps now and begin to build up a big capital for meeting the cost of certain schemes that might have to be taken in those famine areas. It is more to draw the attention of the House to this point, I have given notice of my cut motion. I am not unsympathetic towards these people and it should not be taken as such. I have already remarked that it is very, very easy to be generous at the expense of public funds and be popular. But things are not generally done in that way to help the people. There must be a reserve and from now on that reserve should be built up so that there may be no more recurrence of such famine conditions in that unfortunate area. I do not propose to take much time of the House. I suggest that the Hon. the Finance Minister corrects his statement which appears to be unfortunately ill-advised. Thank you, Sir."

12 noon. * SRI C. SUBBARAYUDU :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am one of those unfortunate Members who come from areas where Nature is often cruel and where the Government also follow Nature. As many of the hon. Members know, our area has been subject to famine for the last fifty years. During the Vijayanagar days people in these parts were happy and the areas were made prosperous on account of the several irrigation sources that existed then. Even now, most of the irrigation sources that exist are those that were built for public use in those days, especially tanks and river channels. Unfortunately, for many years now, these tanks have not been repaired and are not cared for. Therefore, many of them are not of the same utility to the people as they were in those days. Then, Sir, as many hon. Members know, most of the area in Rayalaseema is dry land, especially of loose red soil, barring of course a portion of black cotton soil in Cuddapah, Anantapur and Kurnool districts. Whenever famine came, the previous Governments were only attending to the immediate needs of the people especially of agricultural labour. They never took pains to study and understand the causes of famine and take permanent measures for its prevention. Even after the advent of the Congress Government, the same policy is pursued, and the routine measures are taken. Though the Government are spending lakhs of rupees on famine relief works, most of them are not of a utilitarian character and so they cannot increase food production. They are works just for the sake of relieving unemployment among the ryots so that they may get some wages to maintain themselves.

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My constituency was faced with a famine last year also. Whenever there is a famine and people bring the fact to the notice of the Government and ask for remission of land revenue, a peculiar system of land revenue remission is followed. In our taluk, during the previous famine, the maximum yield of the land was taken at 150 seers of korra, i.e., Italian millet and 200 seers of cholam. Though ours is a black cotton area, during normal times, we produce four to five bags which is taken to be the maximum. Yet, no one got the benefit of remission in our taluk though there was no produce at all this time. Ever since November last, we have been bringing to the notice of the Government through memorandum, representation and deputation to the highest authority of the State, His Excellency the Governor, the present plight of the ryots in our taluk. Yet only 42 villages have been granted remission of revenue. The rest are deprived of their legitimate right to relief. The present system is that an area where the yield is below four annas, will be entitled to remission; but the remissions is granted survey-numberwar. Due to this cumbersome procedure, most of the village karnams, just to avoid the trouble of writing up accounts and receiving the Deputy Tahsildar, Tahsildar, Deputy Collector and the Collector, say that the yield is $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas or 5 annas. The result is they are denied the benefits when some villages which are equally bad enjoy remission. This peculiar system should, therefore, be abandoned. The system of giving remission to persons who have produced a four-anna crop or less should remain but the remission should not be granted survey-numberwar. This will only discourage the ryots.

"As regards relief measures, though since November last year we have been making representations to the Government that famine conditions prevail in our district, only recently some measures were taken and the quantum of relief is not at all enough whether it is grant of subsistence loans or takkavi loans or opening of gruel centres. Even to-day some of the villages do not get the benefit of gruel centres. As regards grant of subsistence and takkavi loans, just now during question-time the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue said that these loans are granted irrespective of the property condition and are given on personal surety also. May I bring it to the notice of the Hon. the Minister that no such subsistence loan is given so far as Anantapur is concerned? Even on houses they do not give loans. They insist on landed property, in spite of several protests we have made in this connexion. Again, takkavi loans are very much delayed as the process is such. The result is people do not get the benefit in time and the loans do not satisfy the requirements of the ryots even to the extent of 2 per cent. Though the Government are unable to spend more money on works or on gruel centres, at least they can be good enough to show some mercy to the poor ryots in the matter of granting loans which will be repaid. As most of the hon. Members know, agriculture is not a paying industry, the more so in Rayalaseema, where the average yield per acre is very poor, i.e., something like 30 rupees. The income will not suffice to cover the interest and wages of the ryots and yield is not at all equal to the return one may expect from any other industry for

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the same amount of capital. If the relief is not given, the position of agricultural labour will be worse than any other kind of labour. The Government must, therefore, come to the rescue of the agriculturists and labourers with takkavi and subsistence loans in my parts especially in view of the approaching sowing season. As we all know, to-day there is a slump in the market. There are no people, either money-lenders or banks, that are prepared to give loans at least to the extent of 20 or 30 per cent of the value of the landed property granting that the ryots are prepared to mortgage their lands. They have already disposed of all their gold jewels and other belongings. They need immediate help.

“As regards relief measures, the works should be continued. The recent rains have not improved the situation in any way and though conditions appear to have improved, the relief works and gruel centres should be continued till October or November when the agriculturists can find an alternative occupation, viz., of sowing. Therefore, Sir, I request the Government to issue orders to the Collectors immediately to continue the works and gruel centres until such time as people there take to other kinds of work.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—“I would like to inform the House that the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue will reply at 3-30 p.m. and not at 4-30 p.m.”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—“The Hon. the Speaker this morning said that I am to reply at 4-30 p.m. Now the Deputy Speaker says I should reply at 3-30 p.m. Am I to obey the orders of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker?”

DEPUTY SPEAKER:—“The Speaker has asked me to inform the House that the Minister will reply at 3-30 p.m. It is the direction of the Speaker and not of the Deputy Speaker.”

AN HON. MEMBER:—“Is it not the same, whether the direction is from the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker, inasmuch as it is from the Chair?”

*SRI G. GOVINDAN:—“கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் இப்பொழுது கொண்டு வந்திருக்கும் தீர்மானத்தை, அதாவது பஞ்ச நிவாரணத்திற்கென்று ரூ. 48,000 மான்யம் வேண்டுமென்று கோரி வந்த இந்தத் தீர்மானத்தை நான் முழு மனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கிறேன்.

“எங்கள் ராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவில் ‘குறிப்பாக ராமநாதபுரம் டிவிஷனில்’ பஞ்சம் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. மூன்று வருஷமாக மழை இல்லாத காரணத்தால் அங்கே மக்கள் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். எங்கள் டிவிஷனில் அதிகாரிகள்கூட அதிகமாக சுற்றுப் பிரயாணம் செய்வதில்லை. ஆகையால்தான் எங்கள் டிவிஷனைச் சேர்ந்த முதலாளத்தாரில் எலெக்ஷன் நடந்தது என்ற எண்ணம் கூட ஜனங்களுக்கு ஏற்படவில்லை. இனிமேலாவது எங்கள் டிவிஷனில் சர்க்கார் அதிகம் கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, எங்கள் தாலுகாவாகிய பரமக்குடி தாலுகாவில் கைத்தறி சம்பந்தப்பட்ட தொழிலாளர்கள் ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்குத் தேவையான உதவியை உடனே செய்யவேண்டுமென்று

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நான் சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எங்கள் தாலுகாவில் எந்த விதமான கண்மாய் மராமத்து, கால்வாய் வெட்டும் வேலை முதலியவைகளில் கவனம் செலுத்தவே இல்லை. அதனால் பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டு எங்கள் டிவிஷனிலிருந்து அநேக மக்கள் தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிற்கு கூலி வேலை செய்ய போய்க் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த நிலையில் சர்க்கார் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கும் இந்த ரூ. 48,000 மான்யம் போதாமல் இருக்கும்போது, இதை குறைக்கவேண்டுமென்று கனம் மெம்பர்கள் சொல்வது எனக்கு வேடிகையாக இருக்கிறது. ஏனென்றால் நாட்டில் பஞ்சம் தாண்டவ மாடிக் கொண்டிருக்கின்ற காலத்தில், சர்க்கார் அதிகமாக பணம் தாவேண்டு மென்று கேட்கவேண்டிய காலத்தில், குறைக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது ஒரு விந்தையாக இருக்கிறது. இன்னும் அதிகமான தொகை ஒதுக்க வேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரை நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“எங்கள் டிவிஷனுக்கு முக்கியமாக மின்சார வசதி செய்து கொடுக்க வேண்டும். பஞ்சம் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது என்று நான் சொல்வது ஏதாகிலும் சந்தேகம் இருந்தால் ஒருவரை தூது அனுப்பி அங்கிருக்கும் நிலைமையைப் பார்க்கலாம். பஞ்சத்தினால் எங்கள் டிவிஷனிலிருந்து அநேகம் பேர்கள் மலையா நாட்டிற்கும், பர்மாவிற்கும் போய்க் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இங்கிருக்கும் கஷ்டத்தைப் பொறுக்க முடியாமல் அவர்கள் அங்கே போய்விட்டார்கள். எங்கள் டிவிஷனில் ஜீவநதியாகிய வைகை நதி ஓடிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த நதியை வைத்துக்கொண்டு சர்க்கார் இப்பொழுது ஏதாகிலும் கவனித்து வருவதாக தெரியவில்லை. அதில் ஏதாவது கவனிக்க வேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரை நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். எங்கள் டிவிஷனில் எந்த விதமான ரோடு வசதியும் கிடையாது. தஞ்சை ரோடு போக்குவரத்து வசதி கிடையாது. ராமநாதபுரம், முதுகுளத்தூர், பாமக்குடி தாலுக்காக்களில் ஐந்து மைலுக்கு ஒரு ரோடு கூட கிடையாது. இனிமேலாவது இந்த இடங்களை யெக்லாம் முன்னுக்கு கொண்டுவர வேண்டுமென்பதை ரூபாய்கத்தில் வைத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு அதற்கு வேண்டிய காரியங்களையும் செவ்வெனே செய்வார்கள் என்று நினைத்துக்கொண்டு இத்துடன் நான் முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—“Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 12-15 P.M.
while I wish to congratulate the Government on the steps they have taken to alleviate distress, my complaint is also there that they do not go far enough and sufficient enough to meet the needs of the people in famine and drought-stricken areas. I really come from a place that is proverbially famine-stricken. It is often stated in those parts that if one wanted to bring his enemy to ruin, just make him a gift of two acres of land in the drought-affected areas like Pudukkottai or Ramanathapuram, and the enemy would then go to rack and ruin inch by inch. That being so it is most unfortunate that ever since the merger of the State we are in the fifth year of an unbroken period of famine. In order to solve the problem of famine in Madras State I suggest that the State be split up into three zones, namely, the famine zone, chronic famine zone and the non-famine zone. All the funds that are set apart for famine relief must be spent in the proportion of 60 : 40, 60 per cent being given to the chronic famine area like Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram and Rayalaseema and the balance of 40 per cent to the other ordinary famine areas. There should be a separate Minister in charge of Famine so that he could look into the matter on the spot and do away with much of this redtapism and arrive at decisions immediately.

“I would mention a few other points that should be looked into in order to arrest the growing famine conditions. There are many springs in tanks. The military may be asked to inspect

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these and deepen them wherever necessary. This would enable the ryots to bring some area under cultivation. Again in certain cases if rain fails completely, at least water from these springs will be available for the agriculturists to carry on their ordinary agricultural operations and this will enable them at least to get a seed return. Grant of loans like agricultural loans and takkavi loans and permits for the purchase of pump-sets may be expedited. These things need not go through the process of redtapisism. In my district applications for loans and for the purchase of pump sets have been pending for over a number of months. I brought it to the notice of the district officials. They have awakened to the idea that they must be disposed of quickly. This redtapisism seems to be an epidemic and is prevalent in all areas. In order to fight the famine, applications for loans and permits for purchase of pump sets should be speedily disposed of. In replying to a supplementary question from me on famine works, the Hon. Minister readily remarked that it was left to the discretion of the district authorities to start famine relief works either departmentally or through contractors. As far as famine relief works undertaken by contractors in my district are concerned, they have been a thorough failure. In the past famine relief works were undertaken departmentally. There was quick payment of wages to the workers. No abuses or misuses were possible. It is the wish of the people of Pudukkottai that the whole system must be revised, and wherever famine relief works are started they must be carried out under the supervision of Governmental authorities and its officials rather than allow the works to be done by contractors, who in our country, particularly in drought-affected areas, seize every opportunity to exploit the situation. Anti-erosion methods also must be frequently adopted to prevent famine. In my area some years ago these works were started. Pudukkottai was one of the first to take up that scheme before that was taken up on any scale in other parts of the State. Then tanks should not be allowed to be silted. What is required by the agriculturist is water. If the Government cannot provide water through permanent river irrigation, at least the Government could see that the rain water that falls into the tanks is made available to the people. This cannot be done if the tanks are allowed to be silted. I am afraid it is going to be a major problem in the drought-affected areas if Government do not take immediate steps to clear up silt in tanks. It was aptly said that a stitch in time saves nine. If this advice is not heeded by Government immediately, I am afraid they will have to spend correes and crores later, whereas if they spend a few lakhs now, it will prevent the recurring famines.

“The people in the famine-stricken areas have already been deprived of their main source of income and now they are to be subjected to the heavy taxation measures of the Government. Their condition is made more miserable. In levying taxes, it is best that Government always differentiate between the delta areas, famine-affected areas and chronic famine-affected areas. Some of the taxation proposed need not be applied to the famine-stricken

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areas. If the Government exempt the people of the famine-affected areas from these taxes, they will be helping them on the financial side also just as they help them on the constructive side by effecting repairs to tanks, digging tanks and such other schemes. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to divide the State into three zones and apply the relief measures they have sanctioned according to the degree of suffering the people are subjected to in these three zones on account of famine."

* SRI P. THIMMA REDDI :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to offer my hearty thanks to all the papers in Madras, the *Andhra Prabha*, *Indian Express*, the *Mail*, *Andhra Patrika* and *Hindu* for the great publicity given by them to the famine conditions in Rayalaseema. It is only after a long time that Government were able to see famine conditions in Rayalaseema. The famine that rages over the whole of Rayalaseema equals the famine in Bengal in 1943-44. The only difference is that there were so many deaths in Bengal. But deaths are there to-day even in Rayalaseema. They are going to continue. Famine deaths eat into the morals of the people. The famine is not over there. Our thanks are due to the papers of Madras and specially to the *Andhra Prabha* which started a famine relief fund and collected easily over three lakhs of rupees. Now the Government feel that famine is over but the public feel that it is still there and they are still contributing. All our thanks are due to Mr. Narla Venkateswara Rao who published such beautiful editorials which touched the hearts of the people not only of this State but of other States also. But do the Government of Madras deserve the thanks of the people of Rayalaseema? It may be the present Government deserve our thanks and congratulations because though they came to office very late, they did something to relieve the sufferings of the famine-stricken people. They gave some real relief. But the Government of Madras for the past fifty years only deserve wholesale condemnation because though they knew that there was this disease, famine, though they knew that famine was rampant in Rayalaseema they were not able to do anything. Here is a book which contains proposals for the economic development of Rayalaseema. The Governments here and at the Centre have recognized that it is a famine-affected area. But what have they done, I ask? Sir, it is not a problem for the State Government alone. It is a problem for the Government of India also. The six crores of rupees that Government have provided is nothing for the relief of the people of Rayalaseema. It is not by pouring water over a man suffering from fever that you can cure him of his fever. Pour any quantity of water on the man, the temperature won't come down. You have to give him medicine and cure him of his fever. The Government of Madras cannot completely eradicate the famine conditions in Rayalaseema. We have to pull the Central Government over here. If it had been a famine in Bengal, or United Provinces or Central Provinces, or the Punjab, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, our Prime Minister, and our President would have run there half a dozen times. Pandit Nehru flew to

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Assam to see the devastating damage caused by floods and earthquake. But none from the Central Government visited Rayalaseema. Mr. Munshi came but he was not able to see the real conditions brought about by famine. He was too old to travel in the interior parts. He could travel only by train and sitting in the train he conducted his enquiries.

"The Government's Demand is for Rs. 48,000. Even though it is Rs. 48,000 I know the Hon. the Chief Minister and the Leader of the House are going to spend not Rs. 48,000 but Rs. 48 lakhs or even Rs. 480 lakhs or the entire amount that the Government can spend to relieve famine conditions. I know every time, the people or Members of Legislative Assembly, or Committees on Rayalaseema go to the Chief Minister or the Ministers of the Government they come back with the feeling that they have done enough, enough and more to assist Rayalaseema. Our thanks are due to them. But the famine can be eradicated once for all if the Government develop the industries of Rayalaseema, our minerals, chemicals and other things. What you cannot get in the whole of India you can get in Rayalaseema, these minerals and other things. It has got such industrial potentialities that it may be the Manchester of India, the Lancashire of India. In Rayalaseema you have gold, diamond, copper, silver, iron, and so many other things. What is it that you want? Even a scientist does not know what minerals could be found there. I submit to the Government that there is no capital in Rayalaseema to develop these. People with small capital took licences for the exploration of the mineral wealth of this area. They have failed to carry on their investigations or start industries. If Government cannot afford to invest a large capital on developing this area, they must seek the help of the Central Government or of some other country, America, Russia or somebody which will invest capital in this key area and start industries.

"There are small scale industries also in that area. There is the handloom industry. There are all kinds of small crafts. They deserve to be encouraged. The Hon. the Minister for Rural Development is to take away Rs. 40 lakhs for his department. I request him to invest some amount in Rayalaseema.

"Irrigation is a real difficulty for us because, though plenty of rain falls in that area here and there, all the rain water runs away to the down country side or into the sea. I want that all the water should be conserved for Rayalaseema. Look at the tanks of Rayalaseema. Has anyone seen the tanks of Rayalaseema? Even if one has seen them, he forgets to think about them the moment he leaves Rayalaseema. Every tank is silted. They are in disrepair. If the Government spend easily Rs. 50 crores, then and then only they will be able to repair all the tanks, channels and other irrigation works. The people of Rayalaseema require not only industries and irrigation projects. Their dire necessity is electric supply. There is something wrong in the State of Denmark. Mettur electricity is now being spared for a part of the Chittoor district. Every time the officials of the Government from here or the Superintending Engineer or his

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Supervisor come there, they will say, 'there is enough load and the return also is good; the extension will come shortly'. But, years are rolling by and Ministries after Ministries are coming. Still we are not getting electricity extensions. After all, Pakala is only about 35 miles from Vayalpad and Chittoor about 25 miles from Palmaner. If electric supply is extended to the whole of Chittoor district they would be removing three-fourths of the famine conditions in the Chittoor district. Same is the case in regard to Cuddapah and other districts. If there is no hydro-electric power available, thermal stations can be constructed and the Government need not fear about the return. Whatever money is spent in Rayalaseema by this Government or by the Central Government or by private capitalists for irrigation projects or industries, the whole lot can be got back. I, therefore, request the hon. Members of this House and the Hon. Ministers to devote their full attention to eradicate famine once for all, because it is a cancer in our throat and it is going to kill the Government. Our Communist friends are thinking of a revolution or a rebellion, and at present Rayalaseema is the most fertile ground for their propaganda. No attention is paid to that area and no politician looks to it. We have sent our Members to the Legislative Assembly and Ministers to this House. I do not know what they are doing. I may tell the Government that Communism is a cancer in the body-politic of Rayalaseema and it is like a disease entering the body when the body resistance fails and it is the same all over the world. When the social conditions are rotten and the economic conditions are bad, it is then that Communism wins. There is something wrong when Communism wins. Nobody need fear about Communism. If we set right the social and economic conditions, then Communism will be nowhere."

(At this stage, the Speaker resumed the Chair.)

*SRI T. S. ARTHANARI:—“கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, நான் இந்த சட்டசபையில் பேசுவது இது தான் முதல் தடவை. முதலாவதாக நான் ஒரு நெசவுத் தொழிலாளி என்பதை இவ்விடத்தில் சொல்லிக் கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். நான் பேசுவதில் ஏதாவது குறைபாடுகள் இருந்தால் அதைப் பொருட்படுத்தாமல் இருக்க வேண்டுமென்று முதன் முதலாக நான் சொல்லிக் கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்.

“இப்பொழுது இந்தப் பஞ்சத்தைப்பற்றி பேசுவதற்காக நான் இங்கு அழைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன். பஞ்சத்தைப்பற்றி பேசுவது நம் நாட்டிற்கு புதியது அல்ல. நம் நாடு ஒரு பஞ்ச நாடு. செல்வம் இல்லாததால் அல்ல; செல்வம் உண்டு; அதை பகுத்தறிவோடு, பொதுநல உணர்ச்சியோடு, மக்களை வாழ வைக்க வேண்டுமென்ற நல்ல உணர்ச்சியோடு திட்டம் வகுத்தால் இந்தப் பஞ்சத்தை இரண்டு வருஷங்களில் போக்க முடியும் என்று நான் உறுதியாக நம்புகிறேன். பொதுவாக பஞ்சத்தைப்பற்றி பேசும்போது இவ்வளவு காலமாக இருந்த பஞ்சத்திற்கும் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் பஞ்சத்திற்கும் வித்தியாசம் இருக்கிறது. இவ்வளவு காலமாக ‘சோத்துக்கு இல்லை; தொழிலுக்கு இல்லை’ என்று பஞ்சத்தைப்பற்றி பேசி வந்தோம். இன்றைக்கு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் பஞ்சம் குடிப்பதற்கு தண்ணீர் இல்லாத பஞ்சம். இப்பொழுது ராயலசீமா பஞ்சத்தைப்பற்றி அடிக்கடி பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ராயலசீமாவைப்பற்றி பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கக்கூடிய நிலையில் பஞ்சம் இப்பொழுது எங்கள் சேலம் ஜில்லாவிற்கு வந்திருக்கிறது. சேலம் ஜில்லா பகுதியில் குடிதண்ணீர் இல்லாமல் மக்கள் பரும கஷ்டம் சொல்லி முடியாது. குறிப் குடிதண்ணீர் இல்லாமல் மக்கள் பரும கஷ்டம் சொல்லி முடியாது. அதிகமாக பாக திருச்செங்கோடு, ராசிபுரம், நாமக்கல் முதலிய இடங்களில் அதிகமாக குடி தண்ணீர் பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. கிணறுகள் வெட்டக்கூடிய திட்டங்களை

[Sri T. S. Arthanari]

[12th July 1952]

சர்க்கார் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவ்விதம் போட்டிருந்த போதிலும் கிணறுகளை நாலு அடி ஆழத்திற்கு மேல் வெட்டுவதில்லை. நாலு அடி வெட்டியவுடனே தண்ணீர் வந்தால்தான் உண்டு; இல்லாவிட்டால் இல்லை. மீண்டும் கிணறு வெட்டுவேண்டுமென்று வந்தால் மறுமுறை சாங்குன் வாங்க வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. அதற்கு கலெக்டரிடம் உத்தரவு வாங்க வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகவே குடிதண்ணீர் பஞ்சத்தைப் போக்க தண்ணீர் வருவவரை கிணறுகளை வெட்டுவதற்கு பணம் கொடுத்து, சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன். இப்பொழுது திருச்செங்கோட்டில் கிணறுகள் வெட்டுவதற்காக ராணுவத்தை அனுப்பி இருக்கிறார்கள். குறிப்பாக திருச்செங்கோடு டவுனிலும் சுற்றுப் புறங்களிலும் சுமார் ஒன்பது கிணறுகள் தோண்டுவதற்கு திட்டம் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இன்றைக்கு தாலூகா பூராவிலும் எங்கெங்கே கிணறுகள் தோண்ட வேண்டுமோ அங்கேயெல்லாம் கிணறுகளைத் தோண்டுவதற்கு உடனடியாக ராணுவத்தை அனுப்பி கிணறுகள் தோண்டும்படியாக ஏற்பாடு செய்வதற்கு தீவிரமான நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இரண்டாவதாக திருச்செங்கோடு, ஓமலூர் முதலிய இடங்கள் பதனி இருக்கும் தொழிலாளர்கள் அதிகமாக இருக்கும் பிரதேசமாகும். திருச்செங்கோடு தாலூகாவில் குறைந்த பட்சம் எட்டாயிரம் பேர்கள் பதனி இருக்கிறார்கள். மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் அமுலுக்கு வந்தவுடன் ஆயிரக்கணக்கான தென்ன மரம் ஏறும் தொழிலாளர்கள் தங்களுடைய வேலையை இழந்துவிட்டார்கள். அத்துடன் பதனி இறக்கும் தொழிலாளிகளுக்கும் வருஷத்தில் ஆறு மாதத்திற்குத் தான் வேலை கிடைக்கிறது. பாக்கி ஆறு மாதத்திற்கு அவர்கள் வேலையில்லாமல் சம்மா இருந்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு வேலை கொடுக்காமல் பஞ்சத்தை போக்க வேண்டுமென்று நினைப்பதும் பசுவதம் முடியாத காரியம் என்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். ஆகவே அவர்களுடைய நிலையை மாற்றி அமைப்பதற்கும், அவர்களுக்கு தொழில் கொடுப்பதற்கும் தென்ன மரத்திலிருந்து பதனி இறக்கி கருப்பட்டி காய்ச்சுவதற்கும் சர்க்கார் அனுமதி கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். அதோடு குளம் மராமத்து, ஏரி மராமத்து, கிராமங்களில் ரோடுகள் அமைப்பது போன்றவைகளில் அவர்களுக்கு வேலை கொடுத்தால் நிச்சயமாக இன்றைக்கு ஓரளவுக்கு இந்தப் பஞ்சத்தை ஒழிக்க முடியும்.

“பருவ மழை தவறிவிட்டதன் காரணமாக விவசாயிகள் பல கிராமங்களை விட்டு வெளியூருக்குச் சென்று கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆண்டிப் பானையத்தில் சுமார் 30 குடும்பங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. அவைகளில் பத்துக் குடும்பங்கள் இப்பொழுது மலையாறிருப் போய்விட்டன. அதோடு சேரியில் ஆணங்கூரிலிருந்து சரிபாதி பேர்கள் வெளிக்கிளம்பிப் போய்விட்டார்கள். பல ஊர்களிலிருந்து விவசாயிகள் தங்களுடைய தொழிலுக்காக வெளியேறிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இன்றைக்கு விவசாயிகள் இருக்கும் நிலைமையில் அவர்களுடைய நிலைமையை ஓரளவிற்காவது உயர்த்த வேண்டுமென்றால் உடனடியாக தரிசாகக்கிடக்கும் நிலங்களை அவர்களிடம் விவசாயம் செய்வதற்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஓமலூர் தாலூகாவில் இரண்டாயிரம் ஏக்கர் நிலம் உழுவதற்கு பக்குவமாக இருக்கிறது. அதைப் பிரித்துக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று பதனி இறக்கும் தொழிலாளர்களும், விவசாயிகளும், சர்க்காரை கேட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவ்விதம் கேட்டிருந்தும் அவர்களுக்கு நிலம் இன்னும் கிடைக்கவில்லை. இப்பொழுது நிலம் இல்லாத விவசாயிகளுக்கு இந்த இரண்டாயிரம் ஏக்கர் நிலத்தையும் கொடுத்தால் அவர்கள் நன்றாக அதை வைத்துக் கொண்டு வாழமுடியும், என்பதை சர்க்காருக்குச் சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்.

“நான்காவதாக, சேலம் ஜில்லா வென்றால் அங்கே கைத்தறி நெசவுத் தொழிலாளர்கள் அதிகமாக இருக்கக் கூடிய பிரதேசம். இந்த ஜில்லா பூராவிலும் அவர்களே அதிகமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுடைய வாழ்க்கை நிலை உயர்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக ஒருவித நடவடிக்கையில் இறங்காவிட்டால் நிச்சயமாக ராயலசிமா பஞ்சத்தை சேலத்தில் பார்க்கக்கூடிய நிலைமை ஏற்படும் என்பதை சர்க்காருக்கு எச்சரிக்கிறேன்.

12th July 1952]

[Sri T. S. Arthanari]

“அடுத்தபடியாக நெசவு தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு சொசைட்டி மூலமாக 1½ மாதத்திற்கு ஒரு பாவு நூல் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். ஒரு பாவு என்றால் 72 கஜம். அந்த நூலை நெய்வதற்கு 13½ ரூபாய் கூலி கிடைக்கிறது. அதில் 6 ரூபாய் செலவு. ஒரு மாதத்தில் 6½ ரூபாய் தான் கிடைக்கிறது. ஒரு வன் 1½ மாதத்திற்கு 6½ ரூபாய் சம்பாதித்தால் அவனால் எப்படி வாழ்க்கையை நடத்தமுடியும் என்பதை சிந்தித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும் என்று சர்க்காரை கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அவர்களுக்கு உடனடியாக சொசைட்டி வில் தேங்கிக்கிட்டுக் சரக்குகளை விற்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும். மேலும், நூல் விலையை குறைக்கவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சென்ற இரண்டு வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்பு இரண்டு கஜம் வேஷ்டி 2½ ரூபாய் விற்பது. இன்றைக்கு 1½ ரூபாயிற்கு விற்கப்படுகிறது. ஆகையால் நூலின் விலையை குறைக்கவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel it my duty to review the famine that has occurred in Rayalaseema and other parts of this State, being myself a Member from one of those parts. You may remember, Sir, that some time back I said in this House that the hands of the Government were full with the famine relief measures in Rayalaseema and they would be unable to do much more in the State in the matter of any new developmental works. I recognize that the expense and the administrative responsibility involved in giving relief to the famine-stricken people were enormous and I still maintain that they are so. The relief measures that were proposed by the Government would have been adequate if only they had been quicker in the implementation of those proposals. Unfortunately I have got to point out certain defects that have been noticed by me so that they can be remedied at least in future. It was about October last year that these areas were faced with famine and then the Government thought that they would have to give relief. It was only about the end of December last year or January this year that the Government acted with speed in the matter of adopting relief measures such as taking up certain works, giving loans to the people who were in need and opening gruel centres for such people as were unable to work. The Government also gave enlarged powers to the district authorities to see that there was no delay in undertaking these relief works. But when it came to the question of actual undertaking of these relief works, there were difficulties, and the district authorities found that the machinery in regard to personnel was insufficient to undertake the work that has been sanctioned, and this personnel was not forthcoming from the Government in quicker time. If only it had been possible for the Government to divert this personnel from other districts where there was no urgency, a large amount of delay could have been avoided. Sir, there was delay on the part of the contractors in executing these works as they had not the necessary capital or the necessary materials. Even in cases where they actually undertook the work, it was stopped after some time as their bills that were pending with the Government had not been paid. So, the net result was that the people suffered due to the delay in the execution of famine relief works. In the matter of giving loans, the Government have spent a good amount in the form of land improvement loans, subsistence loans, etc. But I would like to

[Sri T. N. Venkatasubba Reddi] [12th July 1952]

say that whatever the Government have given up till now, has not touched even the fringe of the problem. I have got statistics to prove it. The number of applications received by the Government in Chittoor district for loans was about 150,000 and the number of disposals was only about ten to twelve thousand. If we have to dispose of all the applications, our State would have to stop all other activities. Even though a good number of applications was disposed of, I still feel that a larger number could have been dealt with and disposed of.

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p.m.

"So far as the relief measures were concerned I would like to state that they were adequate. There were certain delays in the administration of these measures and I would like the Government to see to it that these delays do not recur in future, if we in Rayalaseema have the misfortune to face another famine. I would like to say that what we have to do to-day is to see that we minimize the possibility of the recurrence of famine in years to come. Especially in Rayalaseema it has become a frequent occurrence. Of course we take immediate action and give relief. But as soon as the famine has disappeared, we often forget the whole problem and do not take proper action for the future. It is vitally important to develop Rayalaseema. Rayalaseema, as hon. Members may be aware, consists mostly of highlands. Unless Government take prompt steps to see that all the available water in Rayalaseema is conserved for irrigation purposes, they would not have done anything substantial in the way of prevention of future famines in our area.

"Secondly, I plead that the agriculturists be given prompt help to dig wells so that whenever there is drought, they may continue their agricultural operations by taking water from the wells for their fields. Such a help is bound to infuse cheer in the peasants of Rayalaseema.

"Rayalaseema has always been in the background so far as Hydro-electric power is concerned. For the development of industries it is absolutely essential that Rayalaseema should be supplied with hydro-electric energy. I sincerely trust that the Government would extend the benefit of hydro-electric supply to these famine areas which will go a long way in preventing the recurrence of famine in subsequent years. I plead that the hydro-electric schemes sanctioned for Rayalaseema should be executed as quickly as possible.

"I would like to emphasize that in spite of the relief measures taken by the Government, most of the people are suffering from want of food. They should be helped by way of subsistence loans, and work should be provided for them. I am satisfied with what the Government have so far done to relieve the distress caused by the recent famine in Rayalaseema. I only request that they do not stop the relief measures but continue them for some more time."

(At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

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* SRI V. SOMAYAJULU:—“ఉపాధ్యక్షా, తరచు టైములు చే బాధపడేటటువంటి విశాఖపట్నం జిల్లాలోని గ్రామీణ ప్రజల అధిపతయములను ఈసా సనసభలో వెల్లడి చేస్తున్నాను. ప్రస్తుతము కరువు నివారణ కొరకై కేటాయించిన మొత్తము అధమము ఒక్క తొలూకాలోనైనను కరువు నివారణపనులు కొనసాగించుటకు చాలదని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. టైము సంభవించకుండా ఉండాలంటే నీటి పారుదల వసతులను అభివృద్ధి పరచాలి. గ్రామాల పట్న హెచ్చు ప్రధమపాలి. పల్లెలు అభివృద్ధి చెందిలేనేకాని, పట్టణాలకాని, దేశంకాని అభివృద్ధిచెందదు. గ్రామాలు అభివృద్ధి పొందితేనే కరువు కాటకాలు రాకుండా చేసుకొనగలము. కాని వి గ్రామాభ్యుదయం దేశాభివృద్ధికి మూలకంకదముని గాంధీజీ చెప్పేరో ఆ గ్రామాభ్యుదయానికి గొడ్డలి పెట్టుగాఉంది ఈ బడ్జెటు. ఈ విషయములను కాంగ్రెస్ నాయకులు వీంటో కాలంనుంచి చెబుతూవున్నారుకాని, ఆచరణలో పెట్టుటలేదు. ప్రభుత్వంవారు ప్రస్తుతము ఆమలు జరుపుచున్న గ్రామాభివృద్ధి పథకములవల్ల గ్రామములకు అనుకొన్నంత ఉపకారం జరుగుట లేదు. మన యెదుటవున్న బడ్జెటు కలిపాదనలను చూస్తే అవి గ్రామాభ్యుదయానికి హెచ్చుతోడ్పడునట్టివి కలేవు. గ్రామాలు అభివృద్ధిచెందాలంటే, కరువు కాటకాలు శాశ్వతంగా నివారించబడాలంటే, కంటిగేజ్ పనులను ఆమలుపరచడంలో ప్రభుత్వం చాలా శ్రద్ధవహించాలి. ‘Grow More Food Scheme’ లను ఆమలు జరుపుటయందు ప్రభుత్వంవారు చాలా పట్టుదలచూపాలి. గత ఆయిదారు సంవత్సరములుగా జరుపబడిన “Grow More Food” షీర్షిక క్రింద టైమున్న ఎక్కువ ఉత్పత్తి చేస్తున్నారేగాని అహారాన్ని ఉత్పత్తి చేయలేకపోయినారని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. రైతులకు ప్రభుత్వము వారు చేయుచున్న కొద్దిపాటి సహాయమైనను సరిగా అందుటలేదు. ఇదివరలో నూతులు త్రవ్వించేటందుకు subsidy లు ఇచ్చినారు. ఈ subsidy లు సరిగా రైతులకు అందలేదు. అనేక సందర్భాలలో గ్రామాలలోని అధికారులు, పెద్ద భూస్వాములు, పలుకుబడిగలవారు ఈ subsidy లవల్ల బాగుపడేవారే కాని, వేదవారి చేతులలోనికి సహాయంగా ఇచ్చిన ఈ డబ్బు పోలేదు. ఈ సహనీడిలల్ల మధ్యవర్తులు బాగుపడ్డారు. ఈ లోపములకు ప్రభుత్వమే బాధ్యతవహించవలసి ఉండొందని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఉచితవిత్తనముల సప్లై ఉత్తదండగని చెప్పగోరుతున్నాను.

“రైతులకు నాగలి కర్రలు మొదలైన ఇతర పోముట్లు, ఎరువులు సరిగా లభ్యం అగుటలేదు. వ్యవసాయపనిముట్లు కొరకనిదే రైతులు వి విధంగా వ్యవసాయం కొనసాగించగలరో గుర్తించగోరాను. సహకార సంఘాలద్వారా సప్లై చేయించుచున్న పనిముట్లుకూడా గ్రామాలలోని వి పెద్దరైతులకో దక్కుతున్నాయి కాని సామాన్య రైతుకు కొరకుటలేదు. సహకార సంస్థలుకూడా నానాటికి పాడైపోతున్నాయి. ఈ సహకార సంస్థలు గ్రామపెద్దల, పాముకార్ల వ్యాపార సంస్థలుగా మాత్రమే ఉన్నాయేకాని వేద ప్రజలకు వివిధంగాను ఉపయోగించునవిగా లేవు. సహకార సంస్థలద్వారా సప్లై చేయదలచినటువంటి వ్యవసాయపనిముట్లు, ఎరువులు వేదరైతులకు సరసమైన ధరలకు అందుబాటులో ఉండేటట్లు చూడగోరాను. సహకారసంస్థల ద్వారా అప్పులనిచ్చే సందర్భములోకూడా, అప్పులు ఆవసరమున్న వేదరైతులకే లభ్యమయ్యేటట్లు అంటే సంస్థనుంచి డబ్బు తీసుకొనే అవకాశం, drawing capacity తగ్గించినప్పుడే రైతులకు ఉపయోగపడతాయి. లేకపోతే drawing capacity ఎక్కువచేసి 2, 3 వందలకు పెంచితే పెద్దలకే ఉపయోగపడతాయి. దుర్వినియోగమాతుంది. అలాకాకుండా సహకార సంస్థలు న్యాయబద్ధితోను, వేదవారికి సహాయము చేయవలెననే సంకల్పముతోను నడుపబడిననాడే ప్రజలు వాటియొక్క ఉపయోగమును గుర్తించగలరు. కాని అంతవరకు ఇప్పటివరనే సహకార సంస్థలు గ్రామాలలోని పెద్ద భూస్వాములు, పాముకార్లవంటివారికి లాభము సంపాదించేవేమిగానే

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ఉండిపోతాయి. సహకార సంస్థలలో అవినీతిని లేకుండా చేయవలసిన చాన్సెస్ ప్రభుత్వంవారిపై ఉన్నదని గుర్తించాలి. ఈ లోటుపాట్లను సవరించుటకు ప్రభుత్వం వారు శ్రద్ధవహించాలి.”

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—“కోఆపరేటివ్ సోసైటీలను గురించి సెనెట్ వచ్చే డిమాండు సందర్భములో మాట్లాడవచ్చు. ఇప్పుడు famine గురించి మాట్లాడ గోరుచున్నాను.”

SRI C. V. SOMAYAJULU :—“క్షామము సాధారణంగా పల్లె ప్రాంతాలలోనే సంభవిస్తూ ఉంటుంది. క్షామంవల్ల రాధకడేవూరు రైతులు, కూలీలు మొదలైనవారు వంటి సామాన్య ప్రజలు, కష్టకాలంలో ఈ కేంద్రప్రభుత్వ ప్రభుత్వం రక్షించాలంటే సహకార సంస్థల ద్వారానే ప్రభుత్వం సహాయపడవలసి ఉంది. సహకార సంస్థలలో లంచగొండితనం, అవినీతి, పక్షపాత బుద్ధి ఉన్నవైతే వాటివల్ల ప్రయోజన మేమీ ఉండదు. కాబట్టి సహకార సంస్థలు సేదకానికి సహాయకరమై కృషి చేయవలసిన అవసరమున్నది. అందుల్లో వివిధంగా కరువునివారణ పనులను కొనసాగించగలమో అనే విషయమును మనవిచేయడమే నాభుద్దేశం. కనుక ఇదికూడా కరువుకు సంబంధించినదే. సేదరైతులను సహకార సంస్థల ద్వారా అనేక ధాన్యాలను, తనిముట్లను, అప్పులను అందుబాటు చేయవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వమువారిని మరల కోరుచున్నాను.”

SRI K. RAMAYYA :—“అభ్యుదయ ముద్రాను రాష్ట్రములో ఈ కరువు సర్వసాధారణంగా విహ్వలం ప్రతినిత్యము రాండవిస్తూనే ఉన్నది. దాదాపు విహ్వలం అయిన ఈ రాయలసీమలో కరువు రాడనిపించుచున్నది. దీనివల్ల ఎంతోమంది బీదలు సర్వసాధారణంగా రైతులు గ్రామాల విడదీయవలసి వెళ్లిపోవలసి వచ్చింది. దాదాపు రెండు సంవత్సరములనుండి మా ప్రాంతాలలో ఎక్కడులేక అక్కడ పంటలు లేనిదానిచేత ఈ కరువు విస్తరించింది. ప్రభుత్వము మారాయలసీమ ప్రాంతమునందు విలాటి నీటి పారుదల సౌకర్యాలు కలుగజేయడంలో శ్రద్ధవహించలేదు. ఈ ప్రాంతములో ఇంక ఎక్కువ minor irrigation works, major irrigation works అనేకము పనులను చేపట్టగలము. ముఖ్యముగా కడప జిల్లా, ఇమ్మలముడుగులోని గండికోట ప్రాజెక్టుయొక్క estimate చివరి పభుత్వము ఉన్నపుడే తెలియరెంది. కాని ఈ నాటికకూడా అది అట్లానే estimate గానే ఉన్నది. దీనియందు ప్రభుత్వము ఎందుకు ఇంత ఆలస్యముచేస్తూ శ్రద్ధవహించకుండా ఉన్నారో తెలియడంలేదు. కాని ఇటువంటి పనులు తక్షణం అనుభవ జరిపితే దాదాపు అక్కడ ఉండి కూలీలు, మిగతావాళ్ళకు పనులు కల్గడంవల్ల శాశ్వతముగా కరువు నివారణ అయ్యేదానికి అవకాశమున్నది. ఇమ్మలముడుగు తాలూకాలో రెండు ఇర్రిగేషన్ లివర్ చానల్స్ ఉన్నవి ఈ ఛానల్స్ దాదాపు మాడు సంవత్సరాల నుంచి గవర్న మెంటు ఎక్స్ పేరిమెంటు ఉన్నవి. ఎక్స్ పేరిమెంటు కూడా పూరి అయినది. అయితే ఇప్పటికికూడా ఆ రెండు చానల్స్ ఎందుకు కరువు పనులకింద ప్రభుత్వము ప్రారంభించలేదో తెలియడంలేదు. ఈ చానల్స్ క్రింద దాదాపు అరు వందల ఎకరాలకు నీటి పారుదల అవుతుంది ఇందుకు గవర్న మెంటు ఒక లక్ష ఇరవైవేల మతము ఖర్చు పెట్టికావాలను. ఇంకొకొద్ది డబ్బుతో కొన్ని మార్గ ఎకరాల భూమి కంటకువచ్చే అవకాశముండగా ప్రభుత్వము దీనియందు ఇంతకరకు విమిన్న శ్రద్ధవహించుట ఉన్నది.

“తరువాత దీనితో పారిశ్రమిక లకు ఈనాడు మన కో ఆపరేటివ్ రిలీఫ్ స్కీము గారు relief scheme ఒకటి ప్రవేశ పెట్టినారు. కాని ఈ స్కీమువల్ల వివి

12th July 1952]

[Sri K. Ramayya]

ప్రయోజనములేదు. దీనివల్ల వారికి చాదావు 1 లడ్డీకి రూ 0-6-0 లు మాత్రమే గిట్టుతుంది. అకొంచెము గిట్టనప్పటికీ, వారికి చాలినంతనూ అందుబాటులో లేదు. వాళ్లకు అందులో పని చూపిస్తేయితే, నెలకు రూ 15 లు కూలి మాత్రము గిట్టుతుంది. అయితే ఇప్పుడు మదరాసు గవర్నమెంటు yarn ration రద్దుచేసినారు. కనుక గవర్నమెంటువారు ఈ చేనేత పాకిశామికులకు ఇప్పుడైనా కానీ సంతనాలు ఇచ్చి లడ్డీకి 6 అణాలు ప్రకారము హాలి లు చేస్తేయితేయవలెనని కోరుతున్నాను. తరువాత నాలు మిల్లిల యజమానులు ఇండియన్ కాటన్ తో తయారుచేయబడిన నూలును బొత్తిగాను ప్రాంతాలకు పంపి చేయడంలేదు. ఎందుకంటే, ఈ మిల్లిలు foreign fibre నే తిప్పించుకొని దానితోనే నూలు తయారు చేసి ఎక్కువ ధరలకు ఆ నూలు విక్రయించేస్తున్నారు. దీనివల్ల చేనేత పాకిశామికులు ఎక్కువ చెబ్బరిగితున్నారని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. కనుక ఈ చేనేత పాకిశామికులకు ఇబ్బందులను తాత్కాలికముగా పరిష్కారము చేయవలసినట్లు సరాసరి మిల్లిలనుంచి గవర్నమెంటు డిపోలవ్వరా మిల్లిలలో ఇత్యతి అయిన రేటుకే నూలు అందజేయవలసి యుంటుంది. అప్పుడే తాత్కాలికా వీరి కరుణ నివారణ అవుతుంది. కనుక ఈ ప్రకారము వ్యభిక్షము చేయు లెనని కోరుతూ ఇంతటితో విరమిస్తున్నాను."

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p.m.

SRI P. VENKATASWAMI REDDI:—“అధ్యయన, దురదృష్టవశాత్తూ ఈ సంవత్సరం కరువు మదరాసు రాష్ట్ర ప్రజలను ముఖ్యంగా రాయలసీమవారిని చాల యిబ్బందులవాట జేసినది. ప్రకృతి మనశ్శుభదయచూపని కారణంతో ఈ ఊసుం సంభవించినది. ఊసునివారణకు గాను మన ప్రభుత్వంవారు, కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వం వారు చాలావరకు సహాయపడివారని చెప్పక తప్పదు. మన రాష్ట్రంలో గత నాలుగైదు సంవత్సరములుగా వర్షములు సరిగాలేనందున పంటలు పాడైపోయి రైతులు చాలా కష్టనష్టములనాలెన్నారు. ప్రజలకు తిన తిండిలేదు, పశువులకు పశుగానవులేదు. ఈ విధంగా మనుషులు, పశువులు కూడా చాలా వాధలకు గురి కావలసి వచ్చినది. అంతేకాకుండా మంచినీరు కూడా అభ్యంతరంకానందువల్ల ఎక్కడ ఇక్కణ్ణు పడవలసివచ్చినది. కని విని ఎరుగనంత క్షిప్త పరిస్థితులు ఏర్పడినవి. ఈ ఊసు నివారణకు గాను మన కార్యగెను ప్రభుత్వంవారు తీసుకొనిన చర్యలు ప్రశంసార్హమైనవి మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఈ కరువుకు రాయలసీమలో చింతచెట్లు, తాడిచెట్లు కూడా ఎండిపోయినాయంటే, ఊసుకు ఎంత దారుణంగా ఉన్నదో అహింబగోర్తాను. గత అయిదారు సంవత్సరములుగా సరిగా వర్షములు లేనందువల్ల భూమిలో తడి అరిపోయినది. నూతులలో నీరు ఎండి పోయినది. ఎంతటి నీటిరహితమైనా తట్టుకొనే తాడి, చింతచెట్లు కూడా మండిపోయిన పంటే ఇతర రకముల వృక్షముల గురించి ఇక చెప్ప వలసరము లేదు. రాయలసీమ లోని నాంజిగోటలు మండిపోయాయి. ఎన్ని సంవత్సరాలు పెంచితే ఒక నారింజ తోట కాపుకువచ్చుకో ఆలొచించంబో. రాయలసీమలో ఆనే నారింజతోటలు నీటి ఎత్తుకి తట్టుకోలేక పాడైపోయినందువల్ల రైతులు ఎంత నష్టపడ్డారో చెప్ప శక్యము కాదు. వదేళ్లనుంచి పెంచిన మొక్కలు పోయినాయి. మరి పడేళ్లకుగాని రైతు తోటను పెంచుకొన లేదు. ఇవి ఎంత హృదయవిదారకరమైన విషయమో సభ్యులు గుర్తించ గోర్తాను.

“తోటలవిషయం, పంటలవిషయం ఇలా ఉండగా ప్రజలు త్రాగుటకు మంచినీరు కొరతక అలగుటించి పోయినారు. ఈ వివరిత పరిస్థితులనుంచి రాయలసీమ ప్రజలను రక్షించుటకు ప్రభుత్వం చాలా శ్రమపడినది. ముఖ్యంగా మంచినీటిని సరఫరా చేయు ఓరు నూతలను తల్పిల్పటకు మిలిటరీవారు, చాలా సహాయము చేసినాడు. ఊసు నివారణకు మన వ్యభిక్షమువారు యీ కింది విధముగా ప్రజలకు సహాయ పడినా

[Sri P. Venkataswami Reddi] [12th July 1952]

రని చెప్పవలసియున్నది. ముఖ్యంగా వారు చేసిన పనులు ఇవి : (1) కరువు ప్రాంతాలలోని వేద కృషిలకు జీవకాపాధిని కలుగజేసే నిమిత్తము కరువు పనులను ఆమలు చేయించారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా అనేక ఇరిగేషన్ పనులు, రోడ్ మరమ్మత్తు పనులు నూతన త్రోవల పనులు ఆమలు పనులవడినాయి. (2) వి విధముగాను పనిచేసి సంపాదించుకోలేనివారికి, పిల్లలకు, వృద్ధులకు గల జీవనానికి గండి కేంద్రాలు ఏర్పాటు చేశారు. (3) ట్రేడుంట్ల నష్టపరిహార చిన్న రైతులకు, మధ్యతరగతి రైతులకు subsistence loans ఇవ్వ విధానాలు చేసినారు. (4) నాలుగవల వంట పండిన రైతులకు కూడా special provisions ఇచ్చినారు. పంటలు హెచ్చు పొడైపోయిన ప్రాంతములలో పన్నులు, సేఫ్టులు వసూలు చేయడం ఆపువల చేయించినారు. రైతులకు తక్కువ అప్పులన్ని తిరిగి వాడు వ్యవసాయము సాగించుటకు సహాయపడినారు. (5) ఈ ప్రాంతములలోని కరువులు అన్ని రకముల ఫారెస్టులలో ఉచితముగా మేయుటకు అంగీకరించినారు. ఇన్ఫర్మిటాల ట్రేడుపడితులకు సహాయపడినందుకు ఈ ప్రభుత్వము వారిని సేను కృతజ్ఞులైనాము. ఈ పనులు పర్మనెంట్ కురిసినను మరికొంత కాలము వరకు కొనసాగించవలసినందుకు మంత్రివర్గమువారికి నా ఆధిపత్యములు.

“ నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలో నెల్లూరు, కోవూరు తాలూకాలు రెండూ తప్ప మిగత ప్రాంత మంతా మెట్టప్రాంతము. రాయలసీమకు అనుకూల ఉన్న ఈ మెట్ట తాలూకాలలో ట్రేడుం రాయలసీమలో వివిధంగా తాండవించినచో అదేవిధంగా ఉండినది. ఈ ప్రాంతాలు రాయలసీమకు వివిధంగానూ తీసిపోవు. ఈ మెట్ట ప్రాంతాలలో చాలా భాగము జమీందారీ ప్రాంతముగా ఉండినందువల్ల చాలా వెనుకబడి ఉన్నది. విద్యతరపడి జమీందార్లు జలాధారములను బాగుచేయుటకపోవడంవల్ల కురిసిన కొద్దిపాటి వర్షపు నీరునను చెరువులలో నిలువలేదు. ఇందువల్లనే పంటలు పూర్తిగా పొడై పోయినవి. గ్రామాలలోని కూలి చేసుకొనే ప్రజలు పని దొరకక ఇతర ప్రాంతాలకు వలస పోవలసివచ్చింది. కాబట్టి నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలోని ఈ మెట్ట తాలూకాలలో కూడా ట్రేడుంవారిన పనులు విరివిగా సాగించవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వంవారిని కోరుచున్నాను. ముఖ్యంగా వెంకటగిరి, గూడూరు, పొదిలి, ధర్మి, కనిగిరి, సూర్యూరు వేట, రావూరు తాలూకాలలో వరుసగా అయిదు సంవత్సరములుగా అనావృష్టివల్ల రైతులు ఎన్నో ఇబ్బందులకు గురికావలసి వచ్చినది. మంచినీటి కరువు కూడా విర్రవడినది. ఈ క్లిష్ట పరిస్థితులను నివారించుటకు ప్రభుత్వము వెంటనే పూనుకొనవలసిన సుపని చేస్తున్నాను. రాయలసీమలో వలసే subsistence loans మా జిల్లాలోని రైతులకు కూడా ఇప్పించుటకు పూనుకొన్నారేగాని రూ 10 లు శిస్తు చెల్లించేవారికి మాత్రమే నని నిబంధన పెట్టినందువల్ల మధ్యతరగతి రైతులు లాభము పొందలేకపోవుచున్నారు. కాన ఈ పుత్రపుత్రుల సహించి రూ 50 లు శిస్తు చెల్లించువారికికూడా అప్పు యిచ్చే సదుపాయము ఏర్పాటు చేయవలసినదిగా ప్రభుత్వమువారిని కోరుచున్నాను. తక్కువ అప్పులు liberal గా రైతులకు యిప్పించవలసినది. ఈ అప్పులు రైతులకు అందజేయ నపుడు వి విధంగాను అన్యాయాలు జరుగకుండా దూరబాధ్యత ప్రభుత్వముపై ఉన్నదని కూడా తెలియజేస్తున్నాను. ఈ విషయమే హెచ్చుశ్రద్ధ తీసుకోవలసి ఉన్నది.

“ గత అయిదారు సంవత్సరములుగా వర్షములు సరిగాలేక పంటలు పండనందు వల్ల జమీందారు ఎండినా శిస్తు నిమిషక యివ్వనందువల్ల రైతులు శిస్తు వికాయిలు పెట్టవలసివచ్చినది. ఈ సందర్భములో వెంకటగిరి జమీన్లో ముఖ్యంగా వెంకటగిరి తాలూకాలో ధాన్యశిస్తు య. 1-కి 4, 5 నూములు చెల్లించే అచార మున్నందున యీ హెచ్చు ధరలో య. 1-కి రూ 40 లు, రూ 50 లు శిస్తులు చెల్లించవలసి వస్తోంది. ఈ క్లిష్ట పరిస్థితిలో రైతులు నాదారులై యున్నందున

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బకాయాలు తెల్లించబోయింది. ప్రభుత్వమువారు రైతులు కాటక పరిస్థితులవల్ల అధికముగా నిండా యిబ్బందులలో ఉన్నారని గుర్తించి current fasli వాకీలు వసూలు అడిగారు. Current fasli వాకీలు తెల్లించే శక్తి లేనప్పుడు బకాయ వాకీ మాత్రము యెట్లు తెల్లించగలరు. కాన మరుసటి పంట వచ్చేవరకు బకాయాలు కూడా వసూలు అవుచేయడము ప్రభుత్వ కస్టిగర్లము. ఈ విషయము కలెక్టరుగారికి కూడా తెలుపుతున్నాము. కలెక్టరువారు జోక్యము కల్పించుకొని ఇస్తు బకాయాలు, current fasli వాకీ మొత్తాలతో సహా వసూలు అవుచేయడం న్యాయముగా ఉన్నదని పెంపరీగా వసూలు అవుదలచేయుచు ఎన్ట్రీకు మీ నేజరు గారికి ప్రశ్నరువులు పంపి approval కొరకు ప్రభుత్వమువారికి సిఫార్సు చేయగా ప్రభుత్వమువారు అంగీకరించలేదు. ఎన్ట్రీకు మీ నేజరు బకాయ వాకీలు వసూలుకు తరద్దారు చేయుచున్నారు. ఇట్టితరీ ఆస్తి విక్రయముచేసి ఇస్తు కట్టించు సినడికాని గవర్నమెంటు లేదు. రైతుల దుర్భరస్థితి గమనించి సడరు బకాయ వాకీలు వసూలు మరుసటి పంట కాలమువరకు కూడా అవుచేయించి రైతులను కాపాడవలసినదని ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను.

“శాశ్వతంగా ట్రైమును నివారించవలసినట్లే ఆయాప్రాంతములలో ఉన్న జలాధారములపై రిజర్వాయర్లు నిర్మించాలి. చెరువులు, కాలువలు మొదలైనవిపంటి వాటిని ఎప్పటికప్పుడు తాగుచేయుచుండాలి. వ్యవసాయమే ముఖ్యవృత్తిగా ఉన్న మన దేశంలో వ్యవసాయాభివృద్ధి స్క్రీమును అమలుచేయుటవలననే ట్రైమాస్త్రి అరిగట్టిగలం. మా వెంకటగిరి లాబాకాలో నుంచి జలాధార వసతులున్నవి. కాని జమీందారు శ్రద్ధ తీసికొనకుండువల్ల ఉపసాగపడకున్నవి. వెంకటగిరికి సమీపములో ఉన్న వెలి కొండల నుండి 4 కాలువలు (చిన్నదొడ్లు) ప్రవహించుచున్నవి. సడరు కాలువలనుండి సుమారు యాభై చెరువులకు వరవకాలువ అన్నవి. కాని వరవకాలువలు మరమ్మతులు లేనందున నీరు చెరువులకు రావడములేదు. వీనిలో కోటవాకిళ్ళ కాలవ ఒకటి. అందోళన ఫలితముగా సడరు కాలువకు అడ్డుకట్ట కట్టుటకు ప్రభుత్వమువారు పూనుకొన్నారు. గత సంవత్సరం 1951-52 బడ్జెటులో కూడా ‘కోటవాకిళ్ళ కాలువ—సూట్లూరుపేట లాబాకాలోని పాములకాల్వలను’ చేర్చి యుండినారు. అందుపై ఎన్నిమేట్లుకూడా వయోచేసి ప్రభుత్వమువారి శాంక్షనుకు పంపబడివున్నవి. కాని యీ సంవత్సరము బడ్జెటులో అది మినహాయించడం మిక్కిలి తోచనీయదు. కాన ప్రభుత్వమువారు పునరాలోచించి పనులు కొనసాగించవలసినదిగా ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను. కోటవాకిళ్ళ స్క్రీమువల్ల 10 చెరువులకు నీరు సప్లయ కాగలదు. 5,000 యెకరములు పొరుదలకు వసలి యేర్పడును. 2,000 యెకరముల అడపపు పాగు యేర్పడును. తక్కినవి దేముడు కోనయేరు, చినకోనయేరు పెద్దకోనయేరు—తైవల్వనది. ఈ స్క్రీములు ప్రయత్నముచేస్తే లాబాకాలో సగభాగమునకు వెగా నీటివసతులు డెల్టాలలో వాగా యేర్పడును. ఈ సందర్భములో మా లాబాకాలో మేనకూరు, పున్నేపల్లి, భీమవరం వగైరా గ్రామములకు స్వర్ణముఖిలోనుండి ఒక కాలువ ప్రవహించును. ప్రభుత్వమువారు రూ 4,000 లు ఖర్చుపెట్టి ‘ఫుడ్ ప్రాడక్ట్’ డిపార్టుమెంటుద్వారా రివేరు చేయించినారు. కాని, వెంకటగిరి రాజాగారు మధ్యలో పెళ్లికూరు ఒక వీధిలోట పెంచి సడరు కాలువకు పెద్ద అడ్డుకట్టవేసి నీరును అడ్డగించి తోటకు పారించుకొనుచున్నాడు. అందువల్ల ప్రభుత్వమువారు అన్ని వేల రూపాయలు ఖర్చుచేసిన్ని రైతులకుపయోగపడకున్నది. ఈ తగాదావిషయం ప్రభుత్వమువారికి యెన్నియో దఫాలు మనవి చేసుకొన్నను చర్య యేమిన్నీ జరుగలేదు. ఈ విషయం నెలకొనినది P.W.D. Minister గారికి అర్జిమాలముగా తెలుపుకోవడి యున్నది. ప్రభుత్వమువారు యీ విషయమే వెంటనే చర్య తీసుకోవలసినదిగా మనవి చేయు

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చున్నాను. ప్రస్తుతమున్న జలాశయములు రిపేరుచేస్తే ఈ తాలూకాలో నీటికొరత అనేది యుండదు. 'కృష్ణా పెన్నారు' కాని 'నందికొండ' గాని యేది వచ్చినా అది పూర్తి అయ్యేటప్పటికి 15 సంవత్సరములు పట్టవచ్చును. కాన వై పనులు 10 లక్షల రూపాయల ఖర్చుచేసివో పూర్తి కాగలవు. శాశ్వతముగా కాటకమును నివారించుట యగును. ఈ విషయములో ప్రభుత్వమువారు అత్యంత శ్రద్ధ చూపగలరని ఆశించుకూ ప్రభుత్వమువారు ప్రవేశపెట్టిన యీ డిమాండును లెవర్చుచున్నాను."

SRI K. SUBBA REDDI:—"అధ్యక్ష, కరువు నివారణ గురించి గౌరవ సభ్యులు చాలామంది మాట్లాడారు. కాని మృతిగారు కాని యితర గౌరవ సభ్యులుకాని గుంటూరు జిల్లాలో ముఖ్యంగా పల్నాడు, వినుకొండ, నర్సారావుపేట, సత్తెనపల్లి తాలూకాలోని కరువు పరిస్థితుల గురించి యింతవరకు ఎవరు మాట్లాడివుండలేదు. పల్నాడు తాలూకాలో మహారుణం లక్షల జనాభావుంది. వీరిలో దాదాపు 80 వేల కడపలకు యితర ప్రాంతాలకు వలసపోయారు. వినుకొండ తాలూకానుంచి కూడా యిదే విధంగా మాలినాటి చేసుకొనే ప్రవాసీకు కరువుకు తట్టుకోలేక కడుపులు పట్టుకొని అన్నమా నారాయణ ఆంటూ యితర ప్రాంతాలకు వెళ్లిపోయారు. గత సంవత్సరం ఆసలే డెరులు వేయలేదు. వర్షాభావంవల్ల వేసిన కొద్దిపాటి డెరులు కూడ ఎండిపోయినాయి. ఈ ప్రాంతాలలో పచ్చటి డెరు కన్నుపొడుచుకున్నా కనుపించని పరిస్థితి ఏర్పడింది. దీనికి తోడు త్రాగుటకు మంచి నీరుకూడ దొరుకుట కష్టమైపోయింది. పరిస్థితులు యింత విపాదకరంగావున్నా కూడా ప్రభుత్వం తగినంత శ్రద్ధ తీసుకోలేదు. పూర్వ తాలూకాలో 150 గ్రామాలుంటే వాటిలో యే 10 గ్రామాలను మాత్రమే కరువు ప్రాంతంగా ప్రభుత్వం ప్రకటించిందంటే ఆ ప్రజలపై ప్రభుత్వం ఎంత దయాహీనుడయ్యిందో కల్పితం వో పూరించుకోవచ్చు. గత సంవత్సరం పంటలు లేవు, ఈ సంవత్సరం సాగుచేయటానికి రైతులవద్ద తగినంత డేట్టుబడిలేదు. ఇక మాలినాటిచేసుకొని వీరించేవారి స్థితి ఎంత అర్థావస్థంగావుంటుందో గుర్తించండి. పనులు లేక పేదవాళ్లు చాలా ఇబ్బందులుపడిపోతున్నారు. మా తాలూకాలో కరువు ఎంత హృదయవిదాగకంగావుందో మృతిగానికి తెలియకపోలేదు. మాజీకృష్ణవేలు నాయక్ గారు మా జిల్లాలో పర్యటనచేసి పల్నాడు, వినుకొండ తాలూకాల పరిస్థితి రామలక్ష్మీమ పరిస్థితికి ఎంతమాత్రం భిన్నంకాదని వాపుకొన్నారు. ఆయితే మాజిల్లా నుంచి తిరిగివచ్చిన తరువాత మా ప్రజల గొడువారు మరిచిపోయివుండవచ్చు. ఆయన వల్లనే వారు పల్నాడును గురించిగాని, వినుకొండ తాలూకాను గురించిగాని చెప్పేయిండ లేదు. అదే విధంగా కాంగ్రెస్ సభ్యులుగూడ యీ తాలూకాల పరిస్థితి గురించి తెలియజేయకపోవడం చాలా విచారకరము. రాయలసీమలోనే కాక గుంటూరు, నెల్లూరు జిల్లాల మొట్ట తాలూకాలలోను, కొన్ని తమిళ ప్రాంతాలలోకూడ కరువు పరిస్థితులు ఏర్పడ్డాయి. రాష్ట్రంలో ఎక్కడెక్కడ కరువు పరిస్థితులన్నవో గమనించి అట్టి ప్రాంతాలన్నిటిలోను డ్రామ నివారణ కార్యక్రమాలను ఆములు చేయించవలసినదని మంత్రిగారిని నేను కోరుచున్నాను.

"శాశ్వతంగా డ్రామనివారణ చేయటానికి నీటిపారుదల స్కీములను అమలు చేయడ మొకటే సరియైన విధానము. ఇరవైవేల ఎకరాల పంట భూమి మా తాలూకాలో యీనాడు, డెరువులు మరవ్వుతు చేయికపోవడంవల్ల సాగవుట లేదు. ఈ జలాశయాలను మరవ్వుతు చేయించవలసినదని యెక్కు సంవత్సరాలుగా ఆందోళన చేస్తున్నాము. మొన్న మంత్రిగారు అక్కడకు వచ్చినప్పుడుకూడా వారికి విన్నవించు

12th July 1952]

[Sri K. Subba Reddi]

కున్నాను. మంత్రిగారు ఆలోచిస్తూ ఉన్నారు. కాని వారు మద్రాస్ లిరిగవచ్చిన పరువాత యీ విషయాలను మరచిపోయినట్లుంది. కరువుపల్ల పీడలు పెద్దగా వాధ పడకుండా శ్రుంధాలం తే యిట్టి కరువు పనులు చేయించాలి. కూలీల చేతుల దబ్బు లేదు, వారికి కొనుగోలు శక్తిపోయినది. నీవవోపాధి లేక వాధపడుతున్న కూలీలను రక్షించడానికి ప్రభుత్వం పూనుకోవకపోయినట్లు, ప్రజలు చాలా అందోళన చెంద వలసిన సుందరి మంత్రిగారు గుర్తించకోరాను. మా తాలూకాలలో చిన్న చిన్న మైసల్ ఇరిగేషన్ స్కీములు కావలసిన్నవి. వల్నాడు తాలూకాలో నాగులేట్ల వద్ద భటుపాలెంవద్ద ఆనకట్టకడిలే రెండు నేల ఎకరాలు పొత్తగా సాగులోనికి తీసుకొనిరావచ్చు. దీనికియ్యే ఖర్చు రెండు లక్షల రూపాయలు మాత్రమే. కొద్ది వాటు ధనవ్యయంతో ఎక్కువ స్కీములను ఆచులుచేసే అవకాశాలు ఉంటే ప్రభుత్వం అందుకు పూనుకోవకపోవడం ప్రజల సహించరని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఒక్క పది లక్షలు రూపాయలు వచ్చే మా తాలూకాకు కనీసం మంజూరుచేస్తే 10,000 ఎకరాల భూమిని పెంపనే సాగులోనికి తీసుకొనిరావచ్చు. కరువు నివారించటానికి ఎక్కువ అవకాశాలు అక్కడవున్నాయి. గవర్నరుగారి సమీక్షమే ఒక విధాదిలో ఖర్చుచేసే మొత్తంలో మా వల్నాడు తాలూకాలో ఇంకెవ్వరూ తోమం రాకుండా చూడగలం. ఈ పనికి ప్రభుత్వం పూనుకొంటుంటే అది ప్రభుత్వంవారిని అడుగు తున్నాను. మా తాలూకాలలో వాగుచేయించవలసిన చెరువులు, ఆనకట్టలు, యెక్కు వున్నాయి. వీటిని వాగుచేయించినా కనీసం వచ్చే సంవత్సరం కొంత భూమిని అడవిగా సాగు చేయించవచ్చు. యీ పనులకు వీటికి పూనుకోక కమ్యూనిస్టులు ఆరావకాన్ని బోధిస్తున్నారని ప్రభుత్వం ప్రచారం చేస్తోంది. ఆరావకాన్ని తెచ్చి పెట్టింది కమ్యూనిస్టులు మాత్రం కాదు. ప్రభుత్వ చర్యలే ఆరావకాన్ని తెచ్చి పెట్టివిగా వున్నాయి. మా వాదలు యివి, యీ యిబ్బందులు తొలగించండి అని ప్రజలు మొర పెట్టుకుంటూంటే వారి ఆశించనాలను అడిగినది ప్రభుత్వాన్ని ప్రజలు ఎన్నడు సహించరని గుర్తించాలి. కమ్యూనిస్టు బోగీని స్పష్టించి దానితో ప్రజలను భయపెట్ట వలనడం ఒక రాజకీయ తంత్రమే కాని ప్రజలను కష్టాలనుంచి గట్టుక్కించే విధానం మాత్రం కాదు. ప్రజలు ఈ ప్రచారానికి మోసపోరని మీకు తెలియజేస్తున్నాను.

“కృష్ణా-తెన్నార ప్రాంతాల్లో అనే దానిని నిర్మించవలసి ప్రభుత్వం ఆంధ్రులకు ఎంతో అన్యాయం చేయవలసింది. ఇది ఏ ప్రభుత్వమైనా చేయవలసిన పని కాదు. కృష్ణా తీరవాసుల అవసరాలను తీర్చిన పరువాత కృష్ణా జలాలను ఎక్కడకు తీసుకొని వెళ్లినా మాకు అభ్యంతరం లేదు. కృష్ణా తీరాన్నల్లన్న కర్నూలు, డెడప, గుంటూరు, నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలలోని అనేక ప్రాంతాలలో కరువు దేశత విలయతాండవం చేస్తోంది. ఈ సంగతి గుర్తించితే కృష్ణా జలాలను యీ ప్రాంతాలకు సరసరా చేయకుండా ఎక్కడకో దట్టితాదికి తీసుకొనిపోవడం ధర్మమా అని ప్రభుత్వంవారిని అడుగుతున్నాను. కృష్ణ వైస సిద్ధేశ్వరం, నందికొండ, పులిచింకల అనే చోట్ల ఆనకట్టలు నిర్మించినట్లైతే కృష్ణా జలంతో యీ ప్రాంతాలన్నీంటిని సాగుచేయవచ్చని ఎవరి చేస్తున్నాను. ముందు రాయలసీమ అవసరాలు తీర్చండి. దానికై సిద్ధేశ్వరంవద్ద ఆనకట్ట కట్టండి. అంతేనే కాని రాయలసీమకు సహాయం చేస్తూ అనే పేరుతో కృష్ణా జలాలను దట్టితానికి పరిమంతుకొని పోవద్దు. దీనిని ఆంధ్ర ప్రజానికం ఎన్నడూ సహించదు. మా ఆక సరాలను తీర్చినది కృష్ణా జలాలను వదలం, వదలం, వదలం అని ప్రభుత్వానికి సప్తం చేస్తున్నాను.

“రైతుకు విని మంచో, విడి తెరుపో గుర్తించి ప్రభుత్వం తన కార్యక్రమం కొన సాగించాలి. అంతేనే కాని కమ్యూనిస్టులు రైతులను, కూలీలను రెచ్చగొడుతున్నారని

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చెప్పడం న్యాయం కాదు. కమ్యూనిష్టులను నుయ్యబట్టడమే వృత్తిగా పెట్టుకోవడం. కమ్యూనిష్టులది మక్కిమక్ ప్రోగ్రాం అని, ముందుగా మిసిమిక్ ప్రోగ్రామ్ అని చెప్పి తదవ్యాసా తమ ఆశయాలు నెరవేర్చుకోవడానికి కమ్యూనిష్టులు కృషి చేస్తారని ప్రచారం చేయడంవల్ల లాభంలేదు. ఈ ప్రచారం ప్రజలలో నమ్మకం కల్గించదు. ఎంతో కాలం, రంగారావు ఆయన అనుచరులు, ఈ విధంగానే ప్రచారం చేస్తూ వచ్చారు. ఈ ప్రచారం ఎంతవరకు ఫలించిందని కె.ఎల్.పి. సభ్యులను అడుగుతున్నాను. వారి జన్మస్థలంలోనే రంగారావు ఓడించబడ్డారు. గంటూరు కృష్ణా జిల్లాలో ఒక్క కె.ఎల్.పి. ఆధ్వర్యంగానే నెగ్గలేకపోయాడు. ప్రజాసామాన్యంయొక్క యిబ్బందులేమో కనుగొని వాటిని తీర్చేందుకు ప్రయత్నం చేయకుండా యితర పార్టీలను నిందించడంవల్ల ఫలితం ఏమీ వుండదు.

“కరువు ప్రాంతాలలో ఆప్పులు రైతులకు ఇవ్వడంవామని అందుకు కొంత మొత్తం కేటాయించామని మంత్రిగారు తమ ఉపన్యాసంలో చెప్పారు. ఈ మొత్తం చాలా తక్కువగావున్నదని, ఇంకా ఎక్కువ డబ్బు రైతులకు ఆప్పులు యివ్వటానికి కేటాయించాలని కోరుతున్నాను. జాన్సు యివ్వడంలో ప్రభుత్వం కొంత శ్రద్ధ తీసుకోవాలి. డబ్బు రైతులకు సరిగా అందే ఏర్పాట్లు చేయవలసివుంది ఆప్పుడే ప్రతి వంద గూసాయల ఆప్పుకు కొంత లంచంగా గ్రామాధికారులు, రెవిన్యూ ఇన్స్పెక్టర్ మొదలైనవారు తీసుకుంటున్నారని కీటికన్య వస్తున్నాయి. ఈ విషయంలో ప్రభుత్వంవారు జోక్యం కల్గించుకొని పేదరైతులకు అన్యాయం జరుగకుండా చూడగలరు కాను. ప్రభుత్వానికి యీ సలహాలు మేము చేస్తున్నామంటే అది మాకేసిన ధర్మంగా గుర్తించే మేము చెబుతున్నామనికాని అన్యధాకాదు. కరువువల్ల బాధలుపడుతున్న రైతులయొక్క, సామాన్యప్రజలయొక్క విశ్వాసం సంపాదించాలంటే మెసర్ ఇరిగేషన్ పనులు వెంటనే ఆపాలి జరపాలి. ఆంధ్ర దేశానికి అవకాశంలేనే కృష్ణా-పెన్నార్లవంటి బ్రాజెట్టులను మానుకోవాలి. అలాడే యీ ప్రభుత్వం ప్రజలలో ప్రబలివున్న అసంతృప్తిని తొలగించుటకు అవకాశం వుంటుంది.

“ఇంకొక విషయం మనవి చేస్తాను. పల్నాడు లాల్పాకాలో మంచినీటికొరత విచరీతంగావుంది. బావులలో నీరు పూర్తిగా ఎండిపోయింది. కలెక్టరుగారు ఈ విషయాలను ముల్కాలంగాడు అనే గ్రామంలో స్వయంగా చూశారు. దాదాపు 30 నిలవుల బోరుకు పోయినాకూడా నీరు లభ్యం కావడంలేదు. ఈ విషయమే ప్రభుత్వంవారు శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొనగోర్రాను.

“వశువుల మేత విషయంలోకూడా రైతులు చాలా బాధలు పడుతున్నారు. మా గ్రామాలదట్టూ అనేక అడవులున్నాయి. వాటిలో ఉచితంగా వశువులను మేపుకో నివ్వవలసినదని ఇదివరకూ రెవిన్యూ మంత్రిగారు మా జిల్లా ఫర్వీసరువుడు విన్నవించుకొన్నాము. వారు ఆ సౌకర్యం చేస్తామన్నారు కాని ఫార్వెట్టి డిబార్డుమెంటువారు ఇందును అంగీకరించడం లేదు. ఈ విషయమేమోడ ప్రభుత్వంవారు సౌకర్యం కలుగజేయవలసినదని కోరుచున్నాను.”

* SRI M. VENKATIAH :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while talking on this demand most of the members have referred to Rayalaseema only and some to other districts. But I would like to say that famine is there in all the drier parts of our State. The Government should take note of this fact.

“ It is true that Rayalaseema had been the scene of attack of famine for several years in the past. I do not want to cover the

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same ground which several of the hon. Members have already covered. I only wish to point out that famine in Rayalaseema will continue for some months more till the next harvest is reaped and until then I would request the Government to continue to administer the relief which they are now giving. Especially the landless poor should be given immediate help. They have not so far been benefited by the relief measures which the Government have been good enough to undertake. The Government should take a long-range view of things. Long-term and short-term projects should be undertaken in Rayalaseema so that it is never subjected to the scourge of famine in the years to come. Rayalaseema need not be allowed to be the violent victim of famine hereafter and drain the resources of Government.

“ The development of agriculture is the first important thing in any scheme of development. In this connexion many hon. Members have referred to the early execution of the Siddeshwaram, Nandikonda and Pulichintala Projects. In this connexion I want to refer to the Krishna-Pennar Project. I am against this project being taken up, not because I am against the waters of Krishna being let out for the use of the southern parts and certain areas in Andhra, but because we are more in need of the water and there is dire necessity for it.

“ On the other hand major projects like Nandikonda and Pulichintala would serve their purpose. Several minor irrigation works also should be started. It is estimated that even if all the proposed projects contemplated for Rayalaseema are completed, they will bring under irrigation only 25 per cent of the land now under cultivation. Therefore, it appears to me that besides seeing that these projects are completed as early as possible, it is necessary that we take a long range view of things and explore other sources which would bring welfare to the people of Rayalaseema. Time and again it has been emphasized that Rayalaseema is rich in minerals. Government taking note of this fact should start industries. I am afraid that in Rayalaseema, as it is full of highlands and is very backward in all respects, there are really very few industrialists who will come forward to start industries. It is the Government that should give a stimulus to them. Who is to bell the cat and increase our natural resources? Surely it should be the Government. That will encourage the industrialists who are at present very hesitant to start industries. The industrial output should be increased and Rayalaseema made rich. In this connexion the Government can take note of the example of the Mysore Government. There, it was the Government who at first started several industries. They took some members of the public as shareholders. As soon as the industry developed, they transferred the ownership to private hands and limited companies came into existence. I hope our Government will follow the example set up by the Mysore Government. The industrial development of Rayalaseema will go a long way in alleviating the distress of the people of Rayalaseema. Rayalaseema's industrial expansion will provide sources of employment to millions of unemployed and save them from the miseries of starvation and hunger. Spending

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crores of rupees to relieve the famine distress is only a palliative measure. The Government ought to take a long range view to eradicate famine altogether and act on the lines above suggested.

"It is a known fact that Rayalaseema is always having food shortage. People have not at all paid special attention to follow such occupations as would increase our food output. Increased production of milk, eggs, fish and meat has all along been relegated to the background. It is very imperative that proper grazing facilities should be provided for our cattle. With the increasing population it is absolutely essential that the nutritive value of our food should be increased by the addition of more protein which is found abundantly in milk and egg. It is an irony of fate that Rayalaseema which is rich in forests and grazing fields should have to depend for its cattle on Nellore and Guntur. The adjuncts of our forests should be properly turned into grazing fields. Besides concentrating on irrigation projects and industries, I hope the Government would seriously consider increasing our cattle output. I am quite sure that if a villager is given a cup of milk, he will appreciate it more than anything else. Poultry farming should be undertaken on a large scale. This will go a long way in alleviating the present distress. It will also pave the way for the future and prevent the recurrence of famine hereafter."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—"The House will now adjourn for lunch and re-assemble at 2-30 p.m."

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

* SRI LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose the Demand and support the cut motion. The famine that we are discussing to-day is not a new thing for us; it is our old disease, a disease that has been with us for a very long time, from time immemorial. Even before the British came to our country, we were faced with these famines; such famines were serious when we were under British rule, and the Britishers never tried to take steps to avert famine permanently. If only they had taken some effective steps to avert such famines, we would not be in the present situation to-day. The British people who ruled the country, administered the country only for self-interest and they neglected to tackle this famine problem. This famine problem has never been tackled before in a way which would avert famine in the future, and the British people, imperialist as they were, never took any steps to bring relief to us. After all, famine can be averted to some extent by human efforts; and yet, although the administration has changed over from the British imperialists to the present national Government, no effective steps have been taken to avert famine. In the olden days, even before the British came to rule our country, the Governments of the day took some steps to avert famine, but even such steps, insufficient though they were, were not taken either by the British Government or by the present Congress Government.

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“ Now, what is the policy of the present Government for tackling the famine problem? Famine does not affect Rayalaseema alone; it affects many other districts in our State. Especially the present famine of 1952 affects many districts. There have been three famines recently, the famine of 1942-43, the famine of 1945-46 and the present famine of 1952. Famine is widespread to-day; it confronts the whole of the State. In the 1942-43 famine, the Government of the day spent nearly Rs. 2.16 lakhs for famine works, but the present famine because of its widespread nature, requires an enormous amount for giving relief to the people. The famished people of Rayalaseema—I shall confine myself to the conditions in Rayalaseema for the present—are suffering for want of food, for want of employment, for want of takkavi loans. When their needs were all brought to the notice of the Government, the Government opened some gruel centres here and there, gave some remission to a few people and stopped there. I want to say a few words about the remissions. The remissions were not given in time; when all the kist collections were over, Government gave remissions, and so they did not benefit the ryots. In regard to gruel centres, no doubt they were started in some centres—I don't deny that—but more gruel centres should be started. Even after the visit of Sri Rajagopalachari to the Anantapur district, gruel centres were not increased; on the other hand, I understand that the Government have been telling the Collectors that they were not necessary, and it is only because the Collectors know that the people want the gruel centres that even the present gruel centres are still being retained. As I said, the idea of Government seems to be to close the present gruel centres, even though the people's demand is there that they should be continued.

“ As regards fodder, the people demanded that fodder should be sold at subsidised rates, since the price of fodder was not within the reach of the people. As it was not done, and the people could not afford to buy at high cost, many cattle, especially many bulls died. In my own village of Narasapalle as many as 600 cattle died, while in some villages thousands of cattle died for want of fodder, besides sheep, etc. This great loss of cattle was due to the negligence of the Government; if only fodder had been given in time at fair rates, this national loss could have been averted.

“ The Hon. the Finance Minister said that the Government had given liberal loans to middle-class people; people who had only three or four acres did not get them. Even the few people who were given the subsistence loans, did not receive them fully. As a matter of fact, in the Penukonda and Kadiri taluks alone, there were 10,000 applications to my knowledge. I understand that to-day thousands of applications are pending, and only a few have been sanctioned while many were rejected. Representations were duly made, but the Government turned a deaf ear and simply said: ‘ We will see that the applications are attended to in time.’ For every firka there are

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at least 1,000 or 1,500 applications to be attended to, but there is only one Revenue Inspector to dispose of them and it is not possible for him to attend to them quickly, with the result that relief is not given to the people in proper time. If only subsistence loans had been given in time, the ryots would have felt some relief, but that was not done. The people again demand that famine works should be started. The Government claim to have given work to all the people in the famine areas; but that is not a fact; they gave work only to about ten per cent of the people in Rayalaseema who are in need of such work, and most of the poor people are unemployed to-day. Many of them migrated to other places and have now come back to their own places without being able to find any work in those other places. Any ordinary person who tours those districts can see for himself the pitiable condition of the vast numbers of unemployed people there. They are mostly starving. The Finance Minister said that the Government were providing work for these people, although they could not feed the people. But I submit that even work is not given to them; work is provided to a few people only here and there and not to all. Because of the recent rains in some places, the Government seem to think that famine has disappeared; but I say famine is still there, and because the agriculturists are not able to employ the coolies till the harvest season comes, the coolies have no work to-day and there is consequent starvation. I therefore submit that it is up to the Government to maintain the coolies till the harvest season. The Government also say that they are giving relief by starting famine works in Rayalaseema; I say that not only famine works, but all kinds of works, even major works, should be started there. We cannot expect the coolies to go beyond a radius of five miles for work, and even such work as the Government may provide, cannot be for more than four days or a week; and so, after that period they must go home disappointed. That is why I suggest that some major works should be started, so that they may be sure of getting some work and some food continuously for some period. We have heard statements made by Ministers and eminent men who belong to no party, that people in Rayalaseema are really starving. That is why I suggest that instead of starting some minor works here and there which will give the coolies work for only a few days, the Government should start some major works which will guarantee work and food for these famished people for some time to come. That will be a good policy for Government to adopt, if they want to solve this famine problem. This famine problem affects not only the kisans; it affects the weavers also. Letters after letters come to me to make an appeal to the Government to give them some relief. By the time the Government come out with schemes, the poor people will be starving and dying. The Finance Minister stated that the Government should be judged by their acts. Sir, we have sufficiently heard the Government spokesmen, and we have now judged them by their actions also during the last three months. If this state of affairs is to continue any more, let me warn the Government

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that they will be simply courting trouble. I also appeal to the Members on the Treasury Benches . . .” (At this stage the Speaker sounded the gong and the hon. Member resumed his seat.)

*SRI P. CHELLATHURAI:—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்த சட்டசபை முன்பாகக் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கும் மான்யத்தை ஆதரித்து சில வார்த்தைகள் பேச விரும்புகின்றேன். இந்த நாட்டில் ஏற்பட்ட பஞ்ச நிலைமையின் காரணமாக மக்கள் பட்ட அவதியைத்தையும் நேருக்கு நேர் கண்டு, அதற்காக மனமுருகிய அங்கத்தினர்கள் மிகச் சிலர் தான் இச்சபையில் இருக்கமுடியுமென்று நான் துணிந்து கூறுமுடியும். பஞ்சத்திற்கான காரணங்கள் பல இருப்பினும்,

விண்ணின்று பொய்ப்பின் விரிநீர் வியனுலகத்
துண்ணின் றுடற்றும் பசி.

“என்று வள்ளுவன் அன்று சொன்னதபோல, காலத்தில் மழை பெய்யாமல் இருந்தது மிக முக்கியமானதொரு காரணமாகும். இத்துடன், அரசியலில் எதிர்க்கட்சியினரின் பிரசாரமும் இதை மிகப் படுத்தியது ஒரு காரணமும். மற்றும், இந்தப் பஞ்ச காலத்தைத் தங்களுக்கு சாதகமாகக் கொண்டு, பணத்தையும் பதவியையும் பெரிதும் பெருக்கிக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்ற பேராசை பிடித்திருந்த பெரும் வியாபாரிகள், மிராசுதாரர்கள், பெரும் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் இவர்களின் சுயநலமும் சேர்ந்து இப்பஞ்சத்தை மிக அதிகப்படுத்திவிட்டன. ஆனால், நமது பிரதமர் கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் பதவியேற்றவுடனேயே, இந்நாட்டிற்குப் பல வகையிலும் துண்பத்தைக் கொடுத்துவந்த, பஞ்சத்திற்கு மூல காரணமாக இருந்த உணவுக் கட்டுப்பாட்டிற்குப் பலமாக ஓர் அடி கொடுத்தார். தலைவர் அவர்களே, மற்றும் ஒரு பெரும் பஞ்சம் இந்நாட்டில் ஏற்பட்டுவிடுமோ என்று நான் அஞ்சுகிறேன். அப்பஞ்சம் என்ன வென்று தெரிந்தால் பெரும் சிரிப்பு உண்டாகும், இந்தச்சபையில், தமிழர்களும், தெலுங்கர்களும், மலையாளநாட்டு மக்களும், கன்னடியர்களும் நிரம்பிய இந்தச் சபையில் தரப்படக்கூடியவசமாக ஆங்கிலத்தில் நடவடிக்கைகள் நடத்தப்படும்படியான ஒரு அரசியல் திட்டம் இருக்கிறது. பொதுவாக அவரவருடைய தாய் மொழிப் பஞ்சத்தையும், குறிப்பாக தமிழ் பஞ்சத்தையும், நமது மதிப்பிற்குரிய பிரதமர் கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் மிகச்சீக்கிரத்திலேயே போக்குவதற்கான முயற்சியை எடுத்துக்கொள்வாரென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். அதைச்செய்யுமாறு அவரை நான் வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, பஞ்சம் மிகத் தலைதூக்கி நின்ற இடம் என்று பேசப் 2-45
படுவதும், நான் அறிந்ததும், நமது மாகாணத்திலுள்ள ராயலசீமை யென்ற p.m.
பகுதியாகும். ஆனால், அதிர்ஷ்டங்கெட்ட நிலையில் இந்தத் தமிழகத்திலே குட்டி ராயலசீமை யொன்று இருக்கிறதென்பதைக் கனவிலும் எட்டிப் பார்க்கவும், நினைக்கவும், இடமில்லாமல் போய் விட்டது கடந்த சில ஆண்டுகளாக. அதுதான் எனது இராமனாதபுரம் ஜில்லா. அந்த இராமனாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவிலே, மிகக் குறிப்பாகச் சென்னை, திருவாடானைத் தாலுகா வைப்பற்றி தமிழகத்திலும், சென்னை மாகாணத்திலும், இந்தியாவிலும் எவரும் தெரிந்து கொள்ளாமலிருக்கமுடியாது. ஏனெனில், எதிர்காலத் திலே, இந்நாட்டின் விடுதலைக்காக நடந்த புரட்சிகளின் சரித்திரத்தை, ஒன்றிரட்டி எழுதப் போகும் காலம் ஒன்று இருக்கிறது. அக்காலத்தில் இந்த நாட்டின் விடுதலைச் சரித்திரத்தில் மிக மிக முக்கியமான உச்ச நிலையில் இருந்த சில இடங்களைக்குறிப்பிடும்பொழுது, எனது திருவாடானை தாலுகாவும் அதில் ஒன்றாக இருக்கப்போகிறது. அந்தத் தாலுகாவில் ஏனென்று கேட்பார் எவருமில்லாத நிலைமையில், அனாதைக் குழந்தையாக, பல்லாண்டுகளாக கவனிப்பாரற்று மக்கள் பட்டினியால் வாடி, பஞ்சத்தின் கோரக்கொளையை அனுபவிக்கிறார்கள். அதை அதிகப் படுத்தியது 1942-ம்(ஸ்ரீ ஆகஸ்டு புரட்சியில் நடத்தப்பட்ட போலீசாரின் அடக்குமுறை. அப்புரட்சியில் அத்தாலுகாவில் நடந்த அத்தனை அட்டுமியங்களையும் சொல்லவேண்டுமானால் மணிக்கணக்கில் பேசிக்

[Sri P. Chellathurai]

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கொண்டிருந்தாலும் இயலாது. கம்யூனிஸ்டுக் கட்சியினர் அன்று இந்தச் சபையில் போலீசாரின் அட்டுமியங்கள் அதனையும் சித்தரித்துச் சொன்னார்கள். அத்தனை அட்டுமியங்களும் 1942-ம் வருடத்தில் என்று திருவாடானை தாலுகாவில் நடைபெற்றன. அந்தக்காலத்தில் நூற்றுக்கணக்கான வீடுகள் கொளுத்தப்பட்டன. கொளுத்தப்பட்டு அழிந்துபோன வீடுகளின் கூரைகளைக் கட்டுவதற்கும் வழியில்லாதவகையில் இன்று மக்கள் தவித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இராமனாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவைச் சொந்த ஜில்லாவாகக் கொண்டவர்கள் தான் இங்கு அரசியலிலும், அரசாங்கத்திலும் பல ஸ்தானங்களில் தொடர்பு கொண்டு பெரும் பதவி வகித்துருந்தார்கள். ஏனோ நான் அறியேன், அவர்கள் பெற்ற தாயை மறந்தவிட்டிருந்தனர். அரை முழத்தில் ஆடையில்லாது அன்னை கண்ணிர் விட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கின்ற காலத்தில், இராமஸ்வரத்தில் மகன் வந்திராதான் செய்தான் என்ற பழமொழி ஒன்றுண்டு. அதைப் போன்று தான் இராமனாதபுரம் ஜில்லா வாசிகளே அரசாங்கத்தில் பொறுப்புள்ள பல பதவிசை நீண்ட காலம் வகித்தும், அதைக் கண்ணெடுத்தும் பார்த்தார்களில்லை. இது மிக அவல நிலைமையாகும்.

“தலைவர் அவர்களே, எங்கள் திருவாடானை தாலுகாவின் பக்கத்திலேயே தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் இரண்டு மைல் தூரத்திற்கப்பாலுள்ள கால்வாய் மூலம் தண்ணீர் பாய்ந்து மிகச் செழிப்பாக இருக்கிறது. அதிலிருந்து இராமனாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவுக்குத் தண்ணீர் கொண்டுவர வாய்க்கால்கள் வெட்டுவதற்கு உழைப்பை மக்கள் ஊதியம் பெறாமல் கொடுத்துதவியிருக்க முடியும். மிக அண்மையில் தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் பாய்ந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்ற கால்வாய் வந்திருந்தம்கூட எங்கள் தாலுகாவுக்கு நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. அத்தாலுகாவின் உண்மை நிலை என்னவென்பதை யாரும் தெரிந்து கொள்ள முயற்சிக்கவில்லை.

“பஞ்ச காலத்தில் பல்லாயிரக் கணக்கான குடும்பங்கள், பிள்ளைகளும், கிழவர்களும், கிழமியர்களும் எங்கள் தாலுகாவிலிருந்து சட்டி பாளைகளைச் சுமந்துகொண்டும் சரியான பாட்டியல்லாத காரணத்தினால் மிக அவதியுற்றும் நடந்துசென்று பக்கத்திலேயுள்ள தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் தஞ்சம் புகவேண்டிய அவசியமேற்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

“மற்றும், இப்பஞ்ச காலத்தில் மாத்திரமல்ல, திருவாடானை தாலுகாவின் பெரும்பகுதிகள், ஏன் 100%, ஜமீன் பிராந்தியமாக இருந்த காரணத்தால், ஜமீன்தார்கள் எவ்விதத்திலும் வரியை வசூல் செய்து தங்கள் சுகபோகங்களைப் பெருக்கிக் கொள்வதிலேயே இருந்தார்களேயல்லாது; தனது விவசாய மக்களின் உண்மை நிலை என்னவென்பதை அறிந்து, கண்மாய், கால்வாய் முதலியவைகளை மராமத்து செய்யவில்லை. அதனால் பஞ்ச நிலைமை ஏற்படுவதற்கு முன்பே, மழை காலத்தில் வரும் தண்ணீரைத் தேக்கி வைத்துக் கொள்வதற்கு வசதியாக கண்மாய்கள், குளங்கள், மராமத்து செய்யப்படாததால் அந்தத் தாலுகாவில் பஞ்சம் பஞ்சம் என்று நெஞ்சம் புண்ணிசி ஏப்பொழுதும் மக்கள் சாவதைத் தவிர அந்தத் தாலுகாவில் சுபீக்ஷமாந நிலை இருந்தது என்று சொல்ல முடியாது. இப்பொழுதும் சீக்கிரத்தில் சுபீக்ஷம் ஏற்படும் என்று நினைத்துப் பார்க்கவும் கூட முடியவில்லை.

“தலைவர் அவர்களே, பொதுவாக இராமனாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவிலும், குறிப்பாக திருவாடானை, முதுகுத்தூர் தாலுகாக்களிலும் வசிக்கப் போகின்ற, முஸ்லீம் சகோதரர்கள், ஹரிஜனங்கள், பிற்போக்கு வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் எல்லோரும் அங்கு பஞ்சம் தொடர்ச்சியாக நிலவி வரும் காரணத்தினால் அஞ்சி, அக்கம்பக்கத்திலுள்ள ஜில்லாக்களுக்கும், இலங்கைக்கும் ஓடிப் பிழைத்து வந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுதும் இந்திய மக்கள் இலங்கை வந்து அதிகமாகக் குடியேறும்படி விடால் எங்கே இலங்கையிலுள்ள ஜனங்களுக்குப் பாதகம் ஏற்பட்டுவிடுமோ என்ற பயத்தினால் இலங்கை சர்க்கார் கடுமையான சட்டத்தைப் போட்டிருந்தம்கூட, இந்தியர்களை சட்டுக் கொல்லுவோம் என்றாலும், அதை லட்சியம் செய்யாமல் பல்லாயிரக் கணக்கில் எங்கள் தாலுகா மக்கள் கள்ளத்தனமாக தோணியில் கட்டி கடந்து செல்லுகின்ற நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்கள்.

12th July 1952]

[P. Chellathurai]

“தலைவர் அவர்களே, மற்றும் நீர்ப்பாசன வசதிகள் சம்பந்தமாக, எங்கள் தாலுகா மக்கள் பல முறை கடந்த காலத்தில் அரசியல் பிரபுக்களா யிருந்தவர்களிடமும் அப்பொழுது ஆட்சிபீடத்திலிருந்த அமைச்சர்களிட மும், மற்றத் தலைவர்களிடத்திலும் தூது சென்றிருக்கிறார்கள்.”

* SRI S. KANDASWAMI GOUNDER :—

“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, என்னுடைய தொகுதி மலைகளும், காடுகளும் நிறைந்த பிரதேசம். எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் நிறைய காடுகள்தான் இருக்கின்றன. ஏதோ சில இடங் களில்தான் கிராமங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. அந்த கிராமங்களிலும் இருப்ப வர்கள் மழை இல்லாததால், அந்த மலைப் பிரதேசத்தில் வேலை செய் வது ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டமாக இருப்பதின் காரணமாக தங்களுடைய ஜீவனத் திற்காக சாராயம் காய்ச்சும் தொழிலை அதிகமாக நடத்த ஆரம்பித்து விட்டார்கள். இதற்கு போலீசாரும் அதிக இடம் கொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் தவறு செய்வதை யாராவது எடுத்துச் சொன்னால் சொல்கிற வர்கள் இந்தப் போலீசார்கள் ஏதாவது சாக்கைச் சொல்லி உள்ளே கொண்டுபோய் தள்ளி விடுகிறார்கள். இதனால் தனிப்பட்ட முறையில் அதை திருத்த முடியாததால் நான் போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனிலேயே சாராயக் கடைகள் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதாக நோட்டீஸ்கள் நிறையப் போட்டு ஒரு மகாநாடு நடத்தினேன். அந்த மகாநாட்டிற்கு ஸ்ரீ. எ. சுப்பிரமணியம்தான் தலைமை வகித்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது அந்தக் கூட்டத்திற்கு வந்த போலீஸ் அதிகாரி என்னிடம் வந்து, ‘எப்படி நீங்கள் போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனிலேயே சாராயக் கடை வைத்திருப்பதாக நோட்டீஸ் போட்டீர்கள்?’ என்று கேட்டார்கள். அதற்கு நான், ‘போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனில் சாராயம் விற்கப்படுவதை நான் பார்க்கவில்லை. இருந்தாலும் எல்லோரும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள், போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனிலிருந்து வருகிறவர்கள் எல்லோரும் ஒரே குடி போதையில் தான் வெளியே வருகிறார்கள் என்பதாக, அதை தடுக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற் காகத்தான் இந்த மகாநாட்டைக் கூட்டினேன்,’ என்றும் சொன்னேன். மகாநாட்டைக் கூட்டி அவர்கள் நடத்தைமைக் கண்டித்ததால்தான் எனக்கு சௌகரியமாக இருந்தது. இல்லாவிடில் என்னையும் எப்படியாவது சமயம் பார்த்து அவர்கள் உள்ளே தள்ளியிருப்பார்கள். இதை எதற்குச் சொல்லு கிறேன் என்றால் எங்கள் ஜில்லாவில் வேலையின்றி மக்கள் இது மாதிரி யாக தவறுதலான வழிகளில் செல்லுகின்றார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு கிராமமும் பெரிய பெரிய மிட்டாதார்களுக்குச் சொந்தமாக இப்பொழுது இருக்கிறது. சர்க்கார் அந்த மிட்டாக்களை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப் போகிறோம் என்று சொல்லிவிட்டதால் அந்தந்த மிட்டாதார்கள் தங்களுக்குச் சொந்தமான காடுகளிலிருந்து எவ்வளவு பணம் இப்பொழுதே சுரண்டிக் கொள்ள வேண்டுமோ அவ்வளவையும் சுரண்டிக் கொள்வதற்காக முயன்று ஏழை எளிய விவசாயிகளுக்கு மிகவும் தொந்தரவு கொடுக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் இன்று அந்தக் காடுகளில் வேலை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறவர்கள் மிகவும் கஷ்ட நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு செய்வதற்கு வேலை கிடையாது. அவர்களுக்கு ஏதாவது வேலை கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று நினைத்து, கிணறு வெட்டலாமென்றால் அந்தக்கிணறு வெட்டுவதற்காக தூற்றுக்கணக்கான பேர்கள் தேவைக்குமேல் வந்து குவிந்து விடுகிறார் கள். அதுவும் மிகக் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் சர்க்கார் இவர்களுக்கு வேலை கொடுக்க ஏதாவது முயற்சி செய்யவேண்டும். பாலக்கோடு, பாப்பாரப்பட்டி இவைகள் வழியாக சனத்தொகை நதி என்று ஒரு ஆறு ஓடுகிறது. இந்த நதியிலிருந்து ஒரு கால்வாய் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்தக் கால்வாயை இன்னும் 6 மைலோ 3 மைலோ வெட்டினால் பாப்பாரப்பட்டிக்கு வந்துவிடும். இந்தப் பிரதேசம் இப்பொழுது ரொம்பவும் பஞ்சப் பிரதேசமாக இருக்கிறது. இங்கேயுள்ள நெசவாளர்கள் கிணற்று சேறை வாரி கூலி வாங்கி ஜீவனம் செய்கிறார்கள். அந்தப் பிரதேசங்களி லுள்ள நெசவாளர்கள் யாருக்கெல்லாம் பிச்சை போட்டுக் கொண்டு வாழ்ந்து வந்தார்களோ, அவர்களிடம் இன்று பிச்சை கேட்கும் நிலையில் பஞ்சத் தால் தலிக்கிறார்கள். இந்தக் கால்வாயை இன்னும் மூன்று மைல்கள் வெட்டுவதற்கு தற்போது சில ஆயிரக்கணக்கான ரூபாய்கள்தான் தேவையாக இருக்கும். லக்ஷக்கணக்கான ரூபாய்கள் கணக்கில் தேவையெயில்லை. ஆகையால் ஏதாவது ஒரு அதிகாரியைக் கொண்டு நிலைமையைப் பரிசீலித்து

[Sri S. Kandaswami Gounder]

[12th July 1952]

கால்வாய் வேலைக்கு எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். அப்படிச் செய்தால் அந்தப் பிரதேசங்களில் பஞ்ச நிவாரணம் செய்தது போலவுமாகும். சர்க்காருக்கு நல்ல பெயரும் ஏற்படும். ஆகையால் அதைச் சேய்யவேண்டுமென்பதாக சர்க்காரை நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இரண்டாவதாக பெண்ணைகரம் காவேரி காடு. அந்தக் காட்டில் புறம் போக்கு நிலங்கள் அதிகமாக இருக்கின்றன. அந்தக் காட்டில் இருப்பவர்கள் புறம்போக்கு நிலங்களில் ஏதாவது பயிர்செய்வார்கள். இது சர்க்காருக்கும் தெரியாமல் இருக்கலாம். அங்கே விவசாயம் செய்பவன் வாரடோ, பங்கோ அங்கேயுள்ள மிராசுதார்களுக்குக் கொடுத்து வருவார்கள். இந்த மிராசு தார்கள் சில சமயம் அதிகமாக வசூலிக்கிறார்கள். சரி வாரம் கொடுக்க முடியாதபோது அவர்கள் மகசூலையெல்லாம் அழித்துவிட்டுப் போய்விடுகிறார்கள். இதைச் சர்க்கார் தடுக்க வேண்டும். அங்கேயுள்ள மிட்டாதார்களினால் விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஏற்படும் கஷ்டங்களை எடுத்துச் சொன்னால் அதை மிக அதிகமாகச் சித்தரிப்பதைப் போல் ஆகும். குற்றங்களை மிகைபடுத்திக் கூறுவதற்காக நாங்கள் இங்கே இருக்கவில்லை. குற்றத்தை ஒருவர் பேரில் ஒருவர் சொல்லிக் கொண்டே கொண்டே கஷ்டமும் குற்றத்தையும் நீக்குவதைப் பற்றித்தான் நாம் இங்கே கவனிக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இந்த மாதிரியான அநீதிகள் நடந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றன என்று நான் சொல்வதிலிருந்தே சர்க்கார் அவர்களின் கஷ்டத்தைப் போக்க எல்லா ஏற்பாடுகளையும் செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

3 p.m.

“இந்த காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் 1936-37-ல் பதவியில் இருந்த அந்த 2½ வருஷங்களில் தான் கடன் மசோதா, கள்ளக்கடை எடுப்பு போன்ற நல்ல காரியங்களைச் செய்தது. அதற்குப் பிறகு இந்த 4½ வருஷங்களாகக் காங்கிரஸ் ஆட்சியில் மக்கள் பட்ட கஷ்டம் சொல்லொணாது. இது மாதிரி கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டதினால்தான் மக்கள் காங்கிரஸைக்கு விரோதமாக மாறிவிட்டார்கள். ஆகையால்தான் காங்கிரஸில் முற்காலத்தில் இருந்தவர்கள் எல்லாம் இன்று காங்கிரஸைக்கு விரோதமாக மாறிவிட்டார்கள். அந்தக் காலத்தில் நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களாகத்தான் இருந்தோம். சிறைக்கும் சென்றிருக்கிறோம். அன்று பிரிட்டிஷார் வாலேப் பிடித்து இருந்தவர்கள் தான் இன்று அங்கு காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களாக உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஸ்ரீ. வி. ஆர். தாண்டியும் வரவழைத்திருக்கிறோம். ஸ்ரீ நேரு அவர்களையும் வரவழைத்திருக்கிறோம். இப்படி காங்கிரஸ்காரர்கள் என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்கள் எவ்வளவு காங்கிரஸைக்கு பணியாற்றியிருக்கிறார்களோ, அவ்வளவு தொண்டும் நாங்களும் செய்திருக்கிறோம். அப்படியிருந்தும் எங்கள் ஜில்லாவில் பலர் காங்கிரஸைக்கு எதிராகத்தான் போட்டளித்திருக்கிறார்கள். எனக்கு காங்கிரஸிடம் அபிமானம் என்றைக்குமே உண்டு. அதன் காரணமாகத்தான் நான் காங்கிரஸின் சார்பாக தேர்தலில் நிற்கலாமென்று நாமியேஷன் முதன்முதலாகப் போட்டேன். தலைவர் ஸ்ரீ. ஏ. சுப்பிரமணியத்திற்கும் நன்றாகத் தெரியும். அந்தக்காலத்தில் அவரும் காங்கிரஸில் இருந்துதான் பணியாற்றியவர்.”

MR SPEAKER :—“நீங்கள் பஞ்சத்தைப்பற்றி பேசுங்கள்.”

SRI S. KANDASWAMI GOUNDER :—“தலைவர் அவர்களே! இந்த 4½ ஆண்டு காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் பதவியில் இருந்தபோது செய்த ஊழல்கள்தான் இந்த நாட்டில் எவ்வளவோ மாறுதல்களையும் பஞ்சத்தையும் உண்டு பண்ணிற்று என்பதைத்தான் நான் குறிப்பிடுகிறேன். பஞ்சம் எப்படாமல். நாட்டில் சுபீசுகம் நிலவியிருக்கவேண்டுமானால் இந்த மாகாணத்தில் திறமை வாய்ந்த ஒரு சர்க்கார் இருக்கவேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியமாகும். ஆகையால் இப்போது இருக்கக் கூடிய சர்க்காராவது ஏழை விவசாயிகள், ஹரிஜனங்கள் இவர்களுடைய கேஷமத்தில் அக்கரை கொண்டு மக்களுடைய வாழ்வு சுபீசுகமாக இருக்க தக்க நடவடிக்கைகளை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

SRI S. KASI REDDY :—“అధ్యక్ష, ఆంధ్రదేశములో నాయనీయో
తాళు నిల్వారు, గుంటూరు జిల్లాలోని పెట్ట ప్రాంతాలనుగ్గ కరువు ప్రాంతాలని అందరి

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నిని తెలిసినటువంటి విషయమే. నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలోని దర్శి తాలూకా, పాదిలి తాలూకా, ఉదయగిరి తాలూకా, కనిగిరి తాలూకా, ఇవి మొట్ట ప్రాంతాలే కాకుండా ఎన్నో సంవత్సరములనుండి సరిగా వర్షములేనందువల్ల ఏ కొద్ది వ్యవసాయక సౌకర్యములు లేకుండా రైతులు అనేక బాధలు పడుతున్నారనే విషయముకూడా అందరికి తెలుసును. విదో ఇంతకుపూర్వము బ్రిటిషు పరిపాలన ఉండినది గనుక మనము కష్టపడవలసివచ్చినది. కాని ఇప్పుడు కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వమువచ్చింది సరిగదా ఈ కరువు కాటకాలు పోతాయి అని ప్రజానీకమంతా ఆశ్చర్యమొందినది. కాని కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వములోకూడా వారి ఆశలు ఏమీ ఫలించేటట్లు కన్పడలేదు. కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వము వచ్చిన తరువాతకూడా ఈ కరువుకాటకాలు యథాప్రకారంగా ప్రజలను వీడి స్తూనేయున్నవి. ఈ కరువుకాటకాలు నివారించేందుకు ఈ ప్రభుత్వముకూడా ఏమీ శ్రద్ధలీనుకోకుండా యున్నది. ముఖ్యంగా, దున్నేవానికి ఘామినిచ్చి ఆక్కిడి ఘాములకు కనీస నీటి వసతి కలుగజేస్తే ఈ కరువు తొలగిపోగలదనే విషయాన్ని ప్రభుత్వము గుర్తించకుండా ఉన్నది. అచ్చట ఉన్నటువంటి ఘాములను దున్నేవానికి ఇవ్వడంగాని, లేక బంజరు ఘాములను హరిజనలకో వీడ క్రైస్తవలకో మరి ఏ వీడ ప్రజానీకానికో ఇవ్వడముగాని లేదు. చాలా చేయకుండా, జమీందారుల హయాములో ఉండినటువంటి బంజరు పొలాలను పెద్ద పెద్ద పెత్తనందార్లకు మొదలగువారికి అట్టిపెట్టడము జరుగు తుంది. ఇంక వ్యవసాయక సదుపాయాలు, నీటి వసతి ఏమైనా కలుగజేస్తారా అంటే అవీ లేదు. నందికొండ పాప్రజెక్టులాంటివి కొన్ని విచ్చాటుచేసినట్లయితే ఈ కరువు తాత్కాలికంగా నివారణ అవుతుందని ఆశించినకుండా ఇటువంటి ఉపయోగకరమైనటువంటి పాప్రజెక్టులను కట్టకుండా అంధ్రదేశములో ఉన్నటువంటి నీటిని అంతా వేరే ప్రదేశాలకు తరలించడం జరుగుతుంది. కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వము వచ్చిన తరువాతకూడా ఈ పనులేమీ చేయకుండా ఉన్నది. మొదలే ప్రాజెక్టులుగాని, ఇతర నీటి సదుపాయాలు గాని ఏమీ కలుగజేయకపోవడంవల్ల ఆ ప్రాంతాలు వెనుకబడియున్నవి. దానికి తోడు, గత నాలుగైదు సంవత్సరములనుండి వర్షము లేకపోవడంవల్ల పరిస్థితులు మరింత విషమింపడం జరిగింది. పోయిన సంవత్సరమే ప్రభుత్వము కరువు వస్తుందని చెప్పి ముందుగానే ప్రజలకు తగిన విచ్చాట్లు చేయవలసియుండినది. అట్లు చేయలేదు. ఈ రీతిగా ఈ ప్రాంతాలలో పరిస్థితులు విషమించినని గొప్ప కరువు రాబోతుందని వార్తాపత్రికలు, ఇతర ప్రజాసంస్థలు మొదలగునవన్నీ ఘోషిస్తూ ఉన్నప్పటికీ కూడ ప్రభుత్వము కదలకుండా ఉండినట్లండడం జరిగింది. తీరా ఎన్నికలు ఆయిపోయిన తరువాత ఈ విషయాన్ని కలెక్టర్ల దృష్టికి తీసుకురావడం జరిగింది. హజ్జాద్రిగారు పొంగంథంలో ఈ ప్రాంతాలకు వచ్చినప్పుడు, అచ్చటి ప్రజలు వారికి విషయాలన్నీ చెప్పకోవడం, పరిస్థితులను ఖచ్చితమైన చూపడం జరిగింది. వేకువేలు ప్రజానీకము పనులు లేకుండా తిండికి అలమటిస్తూ క్రిష్ణా, గుంటూరు జిల్లాలకు వెళ్లిపోవడం జరిగింది. అంటేకాకుండా, వ్యవసాయదారులంతా కూడా అప్పుల భారంతో కుంగిపోయి తిండిలేక, తమకు ఉన్నటువంటి ఆస్తులన్నీ అమ్ముకొని పోవడం జరిగింది. ఈ పరిస్థితులన్నీ తెలుసుకొన్నటువంటి హజ్జాద్రిగారు ప్రజలకు తగిన సహాయముచేస్తామని, వారికి ఉపయోగమైన పనులు చేయిస్తామని చెప్పారు. వీడ ప్రజానీకానికి, వ్యవసాయ కూలీలకు పనులు కల్పించడం, చెరువు మొదలగు జలాధారాలకు మరమ్మతులు చేయిస్తామని వాగ్దానాలు చేశారు. గత రోజులు ఎట్లా ఉన్నా, వర్షాలు కురిసిన తరువాత గూడా, వ్యవసాయముచేసుకోడానికి రైతాంగానికి తగిన సహాయము లభించలేదు. వ్యవసాయాభివృద్ధికిగాను తక్కువ లోన్ను ఇస్తామని వాగ్దానాలు చేశారు. దర్శి తాలూకాలో ఘాములు సర్వే కానందువల్ల, తక్కువ షేడ్యూల్ లో ఉన్నటువంటి రూల్సు సవరణచేసి తక్కువ లోన్ను కూడ ఇస్తామని ఆక్కిడ

[Sri S. Kasi Reddy]

[12th July 1952]

వాగ్దానం చేయడం జరిగింది. పోసి కరువు పనులేవైనా విచ్చాయిచేసినారా అంటే, అక్కడ 250 గ్రామాలకు కేవలము 25 గంజీ కేంద్రాలు మాత్రము పెట్టడం జరిగింది. దర్శి తాలూకాలో 11 గంజీ కేంద్రాలున్నాయి, పాదిలి తాలూకాలో 15 గంజీ కేంద్రాలున్నాయి పెట్టారు. ఆ గంజీ కేంద్రాలైనా సరిగా సక్రమంగా జరుగుతున్నాయా అంటే అవి నాలుగు రోజులు జరిగితే, అయిదవ రోజు నిలచిపోవడము జరుగుతుంది. అక్కడ వేసేటటువంటి గంజీ ఎంతమట్టుకు వేస్తున్నారంటే అది ముసలివాళ్ళకు, పిల్లవాళ్ళకు కూడా చాలదు. 10, 15 ముసలివాళ్ళకుగాని, పిల్లవాళ్ళకుగాని కలిసి ఒక తేరు మాత్రమే ఇస్తున్నారు. ఈ కొద్ది గంజీగానూ ప్రజలు ఏ మైళ్ళ నుంచికూడా రావలసి యుంటుంది, దీనికోసరము ముసలివాళ్ళు, పిల్లవాళ్ళు ఏ మైళ్ళు రావడమంటే ఎంత కష్టంగా ఉంటుందో ఆలోచించుకోవచ్చును. ఇంక కరువుపనులకింద రోడ్డు పనులు ఎంతమట్టుకు తీసుకొన్నారంటే దర్శి తాలూకాలో 2 రోడ్లు, పాదిలి తాలూకాలో 1 రోడ్డు శాంక్షను చేశారు. ఆ పనులైనా సక్రమంగా జరిగి హాలీకు, పీడ ప్రజా నీకానికి తృప్తికరంగా ఉన్నాయా అంటే, హాలీకు ఘన గజానికి ఆరు అణాల ప్రకారము మాత్రమే ఇవ్వడం జరిగింది. ఈ పని అయినా అనగా ఈ మూడు రోడ్లు పని కలిసి వెయ్యి కంటే ఎక్కువ మందికి పనిచూపలేదు. హజ్జాడిగారు వచ్చినప్పుడు, దర్శి, పాదిలి తాలూకాలలో 35, 40 చెరువులకు 10 అడుగు రూపాయలకు ఎస్టి మేటు వేసినటువంటి పనులు ఉన్నాయని చెప్పినప్పుడు చేసామని వాగ్దానం చేశారు. కాని అవి ఏని చేయలేదు. ఇంక కరువు పనులకింద ప్రభుత్వము విచ్చాయిచేసిన నామమాత్రపు పనులూ రెండువేల మందికి పనిదొంకడం లేదని తెలిసికొంటుంటే విషయమే. తరువాత తక్కువ లోన్ను విషయములో 12 వేల దరఖాస్తులు వస్తే, అందుకుగాను 1 తాశీల్దారును, 4 రివిన్యూ ఇన్ స్పెక్టర్లను నియమించారు. ఈ 4 రివిన్యూ ఇన్ స్పెక్టర్లు, 1 తాశీల్దారున్నా, ఒకరోజుకు 20 దరఖాస్తులకుపైగా పరిష్కరించలేరు. ఈ విధముగా పరిష్కరించవలసివస్తే 12 వేల అర్జీలకు 12 సంవత్సరము పడుతుంది. అట్లు రెండు తాలూకాలలోనూ ఈ పని పూర్తికావాలంటే మూడు సంవత్సరాలు పడుతుంది. అయితే ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారు నేను చెప్పినది అతిశయోక్తి exaggerated L.O.M. అనవచ్చును. కాని ఇది విమాత్రము అతిశయోక్తి కాదని చెప్పవలసియున్నది. పోని ఈ తక్కువ అస్తులైనా ఇచ్చేరి సక్రమంగా ఇస్తారా అంటే, అక్కడ ప్రజా నీకానికి అంతా తెలుసును. ఒక్కొక్క అర్జీకి దానిలో అడిగిన మొత్తాన్ని ఇట్టి, వంద రూపాయలకు అర్జీ పెట్టుకుంటే వానికి 10 రూపాయలని, 50 రూపాయలకు 5 రూపాయల ప్రకారమున్నూ, లంచాలు ఇవ్వవలసివచ్చిందనే విషయము అక్కడ ప్రండే ఆచారగోపాలానికి తెలుసును. పాదిలి, దర్శి తాలూకాలలో వేలాదివేల ప్రజానీకము ఈ లోన్నును ఆశీస్సుయన్నప్పటికీ ఇవి సక్రమంగా ఇవ్వబడలేదు. ఏ కొదిమందికో అదియును లంచాలు తీసుకొని ఇవ్వబడినది. దీనివల్ల ప్రజలు చాలా నిరుత్సాహము చెందవలసి వచ్చింది. నేను ఈ విషయంలో ఈమారి ఆక్రమం జరుగుతున్నదని చెప్పగా ఆ ఉద్యోగస్తులకు ఒకతూరి వార్తొంగు ఇవ్వడం జరిగింది. తరువాత 2, 3 రోజులకే మరల లంచాలు తీసుకోవడం మొదలుపెట్టారు. ఈ విషయమై ఇట్లు ఉద్యోగస్తులు లంచాలు తీసుకోంటున్నారని ప్రజలు అర్జీలుమాడ పెట్టుకొన్నారు. అలాంటి అర్జీ ఒకటి నా దగ్గరమాడయ్యింది. ఈలాంటి పద్ధతులలో ప్రభుత్వము ప్రజలకు సహాయము చేస్తున్నది. ప్రభుత్వము చేసేందల్లా కరువు పనులకింద 2, 3, రోడ్లు పనులు విచ్చాయిచేయడంతప్ప మరేమీ చేయలేదు. చెరువు పనులేమీ తీసుకోలేదు. దర్శి తాలూకాలో చాలా రోడ్లు పనులు, చెరువు పనులు చేయవలసి ఉన్నప్పటికీ అవి చేయలేదు. గంజీ కేంద్రాలు మాత్రము 11 కనిపిస్తున్నాయి. ఇంక తక్కువ లోన్ను వివిధంగా ఇచ్చింది తెలిసినదే. Subsistence loans ఇవ్వడానికిగాను దర్శి తాలూ

[Sri AR. A. RM. Chokkalingam Chettiar] [12th July 1952]

கொடுப்பது மிகவும் இன்றியமையாதது. அந்த வகையில் நமது அரசாங்கம் கவனம் செலுத்தி வேண்டியதைச் செய்து கொடுக்கும்படியாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு இத்துடன் நிறுத்திக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—

“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need not take up the time of the House in offering felicitations on the success that has attended the Government's efforts in relieving famine in Rayalaseema, as I have already done so. I am constrained to reiterate my argument that all the financial difficulties of this Government and the new taxation proposals to overcome them are due to the fact that the Government of India have not given us adequate financial assistance. The discussion on this Demand should be directed towards giving this Government the backing of this House to demand from the Government of India the Rs. 6 crores that they are spending on famine relief, half as grant and half as loan. If the Government of India comply with this demand, I hope the Hon. the Chief Minister and the Hon. the Finance Minister will be in a position to so amend the taxation measures as to see that no extra burden falls on the common man. When the Government of India have given half grants to other States for famine relief work, I do not see why they should not comply with the demand of this State. As the Finance Commission is now in Madras, I request the Government to put forward their case for greater financial assistance from the Centre on the basis that certain areas of this State are affected by famine every year. One year it may be Rayalaseema and in another year it may be some other place. I should like to point out that certain areas of this State are really famine areas, though they are not considered as such by the Government. They are certain parts of Coimbatore district, South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Pudukottai Division of the Tiruchirappalli district, half of Ramanathapuram district and one or two taluks of the Madurai district. Famine prevails in these areas almost permanently. People do not realize it because we do not shout and advertise it. The Government have not favourably considered the claims of these areas for relief all these years. I have been pleading for setting up a Development Board to develop the 30,000 square miles lying in Tanjore, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Ramanathapuram up to Dhanushkodi. We are having Development Boards for Malnad and other places. Why should we not have a Development Board for this area? I moved a cut motion to press this demand when Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar was the Chief Minister. There was a meeting of the Ministers in the verandah and they gave me the assurance that they would form a Development Board. On that assurance I withdrew my cut motion. But nothing has happened. They appointed a Development Officer for six months, whereas even six years will not be enough to develop the area. I should like to bring to the notice of the Government that the report of that Officer has not seen the light of day. Unless there is a high power committee to develop the area, there will be continuous famine.

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"I am thankful to the Government for deputing army personnel for digging wells. I was talking to Mr. Hejmadi at a party and he told me that the army units would be withdrawn in the near future. He is going to visit Pudukottai on the 15th and 16th of July and also Ramanathapuram. Instead of digging 300 wells, the army units are going to walk away after digging 30 wells. I request the Government to see that the army units are not withdrawn so soon. There is a case for retaining their help for some more time in Rayalaseema as well as in the Southern districts. His Excellency the Governor's Address and the Hon. the Finance Minister's budget speech held out the hope that the help of the army units will be continued. I expect that it will not be a mere paper hope but a hope which will be translated into reality. The help of the army units should be continued as long as it is necessary. After all, we are asking for water for drinking and not even for irrigation. The gruel centres should not be closed down.

"I must refer to the stopping of the well subsidy scheme. I and the other Members brought to the notice of the previous Ministry the stoppage of the well subsidy scheme and they said that it had to be stopped because the Government of India stopped the financial assistance which they were giving. If the Government of India give financial assistance, well and good. Otherwise, let the Madras Government raise a separate loan. In areas to which irrigation facilities could not be extended immediately, the grant of subsidy for sinking wells will help each agriculturist to irrigate at least four or five acres. Well subsidy, Grow More Food schemes and minor irrigation works should be continued. For this purpose, the Government will be well advised in floating a separate loan for Rs. 2 crores. I shall extend all assistance to the Government and see that the loan is made a success.

"I hope that the Government will set up the Development Board that we have been promised for the last four or five years, as early as possible. Let the entire Board be composed of officials. Let the Hon. Revenue Minister be its chairman and the Engineer, Collector, etc. its members. Let me not be misunderstood as seeking membership of the Board either for me or for any other non-official Member. There need not be any non-officials on it. If we have got any suggestions, we will put them before the Board, and in my humble opinion that is the best way of co-operation.

"It should be understood and made clear to the Government of India that the old-fashioned Famine Code and the old-fashioned Famine Relief Fund to which this Government allocate funds up to Rs. 40 lakhs or Rs. 50 lakhs are not of much use nowadays, because the famine problem is so acute and the famine area so vast. Geological experts tell me that the water table has gone down. I am told that in Coimbatore it has gone down from 60 to 120 feet. In my own district, it has gone down from 30 to 40 feet. The Hon. Revenue Minister will have to ask the Hon. Minister for Electricity to help him. Many people are willing to use electric power for lift irrigation.

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"In conclusion, I request the Hon. Revenue Minister and the Government as a whole to treat the permanently famine-affected areas which I have mentioned besides Rayalaseema as famine areas and give relief on that basis."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member Sri M. Bapaiah Chowdary wants to speak for five minutes. After he has spoken, the Hon. the Revenue Minister will reply. Sri Bapaiah Chowdary will now speak."

* SRI M. BAPAI AH CHOWDARY :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Demand and the cut motion relate to famine relief work. If relief is given in the shape of cash, food and fodder as has been done all along, this Rs. 48,000 or even Rs. 48 lakhs will not be enough. The only lasting solution is the eradication of famine by constructing irrigation works of permanent utility. There is much controversy about major irrigation works. The Government must intensify the construction of minor irrigation works, deepening of wells and the restoration of tanks in the famine-stricken areas. That Rayalaseema is a chronically famine-affected area is an admitted fact and there can be no two opinions about it. I want to stress about famine conditions that are prevailing in Guntur district also. Though representations were made and deputations and mahazars were sent, the Government did not treat the entire affected area as a famine area. Palnad, Vinukonda and Narasaraopet taluks and certain parts of Sattenapalle taluk are affected by the failure of the monsoon. The Government were pleased to declare only ten villages as famine-affected villages, though the entire area which I have mentioned above has been in the grip of famine. The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker visited those places. He himself admitted that these places were affected by famine to the same extent as Rayalaseema and promised some help. But no help has been forthcoming so far. Scarcity of fodder is growing day by day. The two wet taluks of Guntur district are at a distance of 150 miles from this place. It is extremely difficult to bring fodder from such a long distance without the help of Government.

"There is acute scarcity of drinking water. Though Krishna water is flowing nearby, there is no machinery to take it up and make it available for drinking. In certain villages, water for drinking has to be brought from a distance of five to six miles. The entire family, adult and child, male and female, has to be engaged in bringing water throughout the day. The Government must attend to the provision of adequate drinking water. Scarcity of water is one of the causes for the prevalence of famine.

"The water-supply position in Guntur Town is very bad. There cannot be any town on the face of the earth as bad as Guntur Town in this respect. There is not even a drop of water in any of the wells."

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member's time is up."

* SRI M. BAPAI AH CHOWDARY :—"One more minute, Sir. Certain roads were sanctioned as famine relief works. But

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no work has yet been started. The Government may be pleased to issue early orders for starting the works in those famine areas. The Hon. the Revenue Minister appreciated the work done by the Army. But I want to place before the House the work done by the 'Andhra Prabha' and the 'Indian Express' in ascertaining facts from Palnad and Sattenapalle taluks. They sent their representatives. They visited nooks and corners of the district. They took photographs of those places. I do want to express my appreciation of the services rendered by the Managers of 'Andhra Prabha' and the 'Indian Express', and also the work done by Mr. N. T. Rama Rao and his staff throughout Andhra, Desa."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—
"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have carefully listened to as many as 23 hon. Members who took part in the discussion. Very interesting speeches were made. Very revealing speeches were made. And very embarrassing speeches also were made, from my standpoint. The whole thing resolves itself into this. Half a dozen hon. Members spoke on the general policy as to how a famine relief measure should be a preventive measure, how steps should be taken, what committees should be constituted, and so on and so forth. Other hon. Members gave a very graphic description of the famine conditions in their constituencies and in their districts, and wanted more loans to be given, more gruel centres to be opened, and more fodder to be supplied. They also said that there was delay in the matter of granting the loans, and that there was delay also in giving relief immediately. When I heard them, I was reminded of Oliver Twist, Sir. Every hon. Member began to ask for more and more. In the case of one Oliver Twist, it gave sufficient exercise of mind to the boarding authorities. But when I was faced with many Oliver Twists, most of them full-blooded, specially the hon. Member from Guntur, I was really wondering how I was going to satisfy their greedy hunger. But, Sir, I shall try"

(The hon. Member Sri C. V. K. Rao rose in his seat.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister is not yielding. The hon. Member will please sit down."

SRI C. V. K. RAO:—"Sir, I rise on a point of order. Has the Hon. Minister first-hand knowledge of famine conditions in the famine areas of Rayalaseema?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not a point of order?"

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—
"I may inform the hon. Member that I have more than first-hand knowledge of the famine conditions.

"Sir, I will first deal with the hon. Members who spoke in a general fashion. I shall now deal with the points raised by the

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hon. Member Mr. V. V. Ramasami. He went elaborately into the cause and origin of famine, the development of famine, and the way in which the ancient kings tackled famine. He concluded his speech by quoting couplets from Tiruvalluvar and Bharati, and suggesting to the Government that a committee should be appointed to go into the famine problem. The hon. Member Mr. Ari Gowder said that the Hon. the Finance Minister was wrong in saying in his budget speech that some of the loans that had been given could not be recovered or might not be recovered. He made a great point of it. But I am afraid that he pulled out that particular sentence from its context, and said that the Hon. the Finance Minister's statement was wrong. The Finance Minister took an over-all picture of the Budget and said that the income had fallen, and that even some portions of the loans advanced to the people, might not be recovered. This is all that he said. Mr. Ari Gowder took it in a different way, and made a great point of it. He said that the Finance Minister ought not to have said that in that manner. The hon. Member Mr. Balakrishnan advocated a zonal system. He wanted the whole State to be divided into two or three zones and that the more flourishing parts must go to the rescue of the less flourishing parts. His motto seems to be 'Rob Peter to pay Paul'. Of course that could be done to some extent. But we cannot go the whole length in this manner. We cannot go on robbing Peter to pay Paul. To some extent we can make some adjustments between the flourishing zones and the non-flourishing zones. The hon. Member Mr. Thimma Reddi said that the Ministers in the Centre did not take as much interest in South India as they were taking in regard to Assam and other North Indian places. He said that when there was trouble in South India, the Ministers in the Centre did not pay any attention. He also said the Hon. Mr. Munshi visited South India, and that was not enough. I may inform the hon. Member that the Central Government were fully aware of the situation, and they took immediate steps in coming to our rescue. They sent the Army to help us in finding drinking water. I may go to the extent of saying that the military was sent so expeditiously as though there was a sudden outbreak of war, that is, as suddenly as military movements are made in case of war. So, Sir, we are not right in accusing them. They are pressed with so many other problems, and in spite of all that they came to our rescue. We must all be thankful to the Army which did such meritorious work in getting water from wells from where, by ordinary civilian methods water could not be had previously. The military were working for months in Rayalaseema. Now they have been sent to Tamil districts. By the way, I may say that some Tamil districts are as much affected by famine as any Rayalaseema district, but only they are not in the limelight, as one hon. Member put it."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Why are they not in the limelight, Sir? "

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* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
 “Probably the hon. Member is responsible for it. Then, Sir, Mr. Thimma Reddi said that Rayalaseema should be industrialized and developed, and then there would be wealth in that area. He said that famine could then be tackled. I may tell him, Sir, that Rayalaseema is in the nature of a patient now. The patient is having fever, and first of all we must cure him of his fever. Then tonic can be given. (Interruption.) How can we give tonic before he is cured of his fever? He will collapse. We will have to wait patiently till the fever of famine subsides, and then we can give tonics in the shape of industry and other amenities that are wanted.”

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—“How is the Hon. Minister going to get rid of the fever?”

MR. SPEAKER :—“The Hon. Minister is not yielding.”

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
 “If I wish that the patient should collapse, I will not be doing what I am going to narrate now. Regarding gruel centres 1,800 centres are working feeding four to five lakhs of people. The sum so far sanctioned to them is Rs. 31,20,200. The total revenue demand for Rayalaseema is Rs. 295 lakhs, and the remission likely to be sanctioned is Rs. 72.74 lakhs. The collection of instalments towards loans taken has been postponed, where land revenue remission has been ordered. Subsistence loans to the tune of Rs. 33,82,994 have been disbursed. Land improvement loans and agricultural loans have been disbursed to the extent of Rs. 1,07,68,000 odd. For relief works a sum of Rs. 38,000 has been sanctioned for all famine areas.”

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—“Why make a distinction between Rayalaseema and other areas?”

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
 “If the hon. Member will kindly total up the lakhs of rupees that have been spent, he will see that it comes to Rs. 6 crores. This is not a small sum. Four thousand eight hundred works are in progress benefiting about 1 lakh of persons. Wages are being paid from 12 annas to Rs. 1-8-0 per adult per day. (Interruption.) I am giving a picture of the famine-affected area in order to show that it is not only Rayalaseema that is affected by famine but that there are other districts also where famine prevails. For instance, Chingleput, North Arcot, parts of Guntur, Nellore, South Arcot, Tiruchi, Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore and Madura are also affected by famine. I may say a word about the measures taken to relieve the scarcity of drinking water. The scarcity of drinking water was most acute in Rayalaseema and to a less extent in some districts. Help in the form of deepening of public wells was found to be totally insufficient. A scheme was introduced for the grant of Rs. 150 to individuals

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and institutions coming forward to deepen wells, private or public. I think 775 public wells and 350 private wells have been deepened. The scheme is now in force in Rayachoti taluk of Cuddapah district and in Chittoor and Madanapalle taluks of Chittoor district, where water scarcity continues. Twelve civil supplies lorries and five tankers of the Agriculture Department continue to distribute water to Cuddapah and Anantapur. I think Anantapur is the district from which the hon. Member Mr. Nagi Reddi is coming. Five more tankers are under distribution, three to Guntur town and two to Coimbatore.

"With regard to fodder relief, Sir, State help was considered necessary. A Special Deputy Collector for fodder was appointed with headquarters at Kakinada. The Development Commissioner, Rayalaseema Development Board, was put in charge of general supervision. So far, 707 tons of paddy straw and 1,578 tons of hill grass have been removed. Hill grass and paddy straw are sold at subsidized rates of Rs. 48 and Rs. 60 per ton respectively. The necessity for continuing the fodder operations is under consideration."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—"How many depots are there in each district?"

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"I cannot tell the hon. Member the exact number. But there are depots."

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"As regards medical relief, three ambulance vans were working in Cuddapah, Anantapur and North Arcot. Four fire service vans have been pressed into service. About 2½ lakhs of multi-vitamin tablets have already been supplied. Eight work centres have been started with the help of the Women's Welfare Department and part of the expenditure has been contributed by Srimathi Durga Bai from the funds placed at her disposal by the Prime Minister of India.

"Then we come to voluntary help. A State Famine Relief Fund was constituted with the Governor as the patron and the Chief Minister as the President and the Fund has so far reached a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs. Over Rs. 3 lakhs have already been disbursed to the districts and further allotments are being made for provision of certain amenities like provision of cloth, supplying any deficiency in the gruel like thickening of rice, provision of additional condiment, etc. In addition, the Government have also had the assistance of several philanthropic bodies like the Andhra Mahila Sabha, the Rayalaseema Famine Relief Committee, the Ramakrishna Mission, the Servants of India Society, Friends Services Union, the Jain Medical Relief Society, the Guild of Service, and the Students Medical Union in the matter of providing clothing, medical assistance, etc. The Government have lent their encouraging hand to these organizations by undertaking to provide free transport facilities for the conveyance of gifts of rice and other things."

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“ When we were on this famine business, floods also gave us trouble. The recent rains in May, though welcome in many parts, were unwelcome in other parts inasmuch as there was too much rain. Flood damages and cattle mortality have had to be faced in the eastern taluks of Kurnool and Cuddapah districts and parts of Guntur and Nellore districts. Relief to persons rendered homeless have had to be given. Projects like irrigation works have breached and have to be repaired. Government have accordingly instructed the Collectors that relief by way of loans for the purchase of agricultural implements should be expeditiously and liberally afforded. So far as Nellore district is concerned, a sum of Rs. 20,000 was sanctioned for granting relief to the flood-affected areas. For Kurnool district, a sum of Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned for work connected with the repairs to the breached tanks, and another sum of Rs. 15,000 for relief to persons whose houses were damaged or collapsed through the floods. The Board was also requested to allot a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs to Kurnool district for disbursement of loans and for reclamation of land rendered unfit for cultivation on account of floods. Details of relief proposals have been called for in respect of Cuddapah district.

“ The rains of May have generally eased the drinking water position, particularly in the districts of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Anantapur and the eastern part of Chittoor district. Fodder position is also found to be eased by sufficient growth of grass. Attendance in gruel centres has not, however, greatly lessened. It is, therefore, obvious that the agricultural operations after the recent rains, have afforded only partial relief to labour. The relief measures so far undertaken have, therefore, to be continued till the outbreak of monsoon and normal agricultural operation is resumed. Therefore hon. Members need not have any anxiety that suddenly this relief work would be stopped. Only when normal conditions come about, these relief measures will be gradually withdrawn.

“ I now come to the points raised by the hon. Gentleman Sri Vavilala Gopalakrishniah. Whenever he gets up to speak, he is a bugbear to me, because I cannot understand his language.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ Sir, bugbear is not a proper term.”

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
“ Anyway it is not unparliamentary.

“ With regard to Guntur, the areas affected are Vinukonda, Palnad and Narasaraopet taluks. Three minor irrigation works, 20 rural water-supply works, one grow more food work, three P.W.D. Irrigation works and one P.W.D. Highways work are in progress to relieve the unemployment of the agricultural labourers. There are no relief works in Narasaraopet taluk and they are reported to be not necessary also. Fourteen gruel centres have been opened and about 3,059 persons are fed on an average every

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day. A sum of Rs. 26,150 has been spent from the State Fund. In addition to this, a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been collected as donation.

AN HON. MEMBER :—On a point of order, Sir. May I know what are the schemes Government have undertaken in the Guntur district? The Hon. Minister has not revealed the names of the schemes undertaken."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is not a point of order. Let the Hon. Minister continue."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I appeal to you, Sir, to note that in the name of point of order, many things are said.

" Sir, 66 fair price shops in Vinukonda and 14 in Palnad taluk cater to the needs of the poor. A sum of Rs. 1,55,453 has been disbursed as loans under the L.I.L. and L.I. Acts in the aforesaid taluks. These three taluks have already been considered as distressed areas for the purpose of granting subsistence loans and a sum of Rs. 2,24,000 has been disbursed so far.

" The amount remitted comes to nearly Rs. 1,91,000. The collection of cesses has also been ordered to be postponed. So, I would submit that Guntur has been favourably treated.

" Many hon. Members talked about projects. Though that subject lies strictly within the province of my Hon. Colleague the Minister for Public Works, I may also say a word about that. It was complained that the projects are not taken in hand and if they are taken in hand, the recurrence of famine conditions could be prevented. As far as possible, Government are trying to take up as many projects as possible.

" As a permanent measure of preventing famine in the Rayalaseema area, the Tungabhadra Project is in progress. Further, the Buderu Project and the canal work of the Lower Sagileru Project have also been taken up. In Coimbatore district, the Lower Bhavani Project work is progressing. These projects, when completed, would go a long way to eradicate famine in some areas now affected by drought."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" What about Nandikonda Project? "

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I shall come to it just now. Besides these projects, a large number of minor irrigation works and rural water-supply works have also been undertaken. The present policy of the Government is to see that works of permanent utility alone are taken up.

" Then, a word about the Nandikonda Project. When I went to that side, I had the happy company of my hon. Friend Sri Siviah. The other day he made a complaint and I must take this occasion to answer it. He said, 'Ministers, when they go

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on tours, receive addresses, promise so many things and deny them here.' Not at all, Sir. What I said was this. 'My sympathies or the sympathies of 1/15th of the Cabinet are with the aspirations of the people of the Guntur district.' For that, he should not come here and put me in an awkward position by saying that Cabinet Ministers promise so many things but do not fulfil them. I will try my best to help them but I cannot make a commitment; it will be rather embarrassing to my Colleagues.

"With regard to Nandikonda Project, it is in the mind of everybody. Even little children, while I was touring, said 'Nandikonda Project-ki-jay'. People's minds are so surcharged with this project. I do not know who are responsible for it."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—"All are responsible for it. Even the Congress Members are responsible for it."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"I sympathise with their aspirations. But the whole thing depends on some other thing. The Krishna-Pennar Project, the Nandikonda Project and other projects are on the anvil of the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission have referred the matter to the Technical Committee called the Khosla Committee and they are going through them. When the Khosla Committee submit their report, the Planning Commission will consider the matter. Then there will be time enough for this Government to consider it. We shall do our best in the matter. We are very much interested from a selfish point of view also, in seeing that there is no famine in Rayalaseema. We have got to spend our money there and so we are also as much interested as the other hon. Members are in seeing that there is no famine in Rayalaseema.

"Lastly, I must refer to the point raised by my hon. Friend the Raja of Chettinad. It was a surprise to me that he also became an 'Oliver Twist'. He wants more and more privileges and amenities. He is justified in saying that the Ramanathapuram district is as bad as some parts of Coimbatore. Also conditions in some portions of Madurai district and Tiruchirappalli district are on a par with the conditions in Rayalaseema. No doubt, because the hon. Member comes from that part, he is alive to the situation and he has mentioned that. Certainly it will be looked into and we shall do our best in the matter. Requisitioning an army unit is a very costly business. We do not know where we are with regard to that. We are hard pressed for drinking-water and we are getting work from the Army units for this purpose. When the bill comes, we do not know where we will be. But we do not mind that and we are trying to give drinking-water supply in as many places as possible.

"My hon. Friend referred to the High-power Committee. Whether it is a high-power committee or low-power committee, I think some such organization should be there to suggest

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measures for tackling the problem of famine. I think the present policy in the matter of medical relief is more preventive than curative. It is better to prevent a disease than to cure it. In that way, I agree that all steps should be taken to see that this famine is prevented in the interests of all the districts. Government cannot afford to spend every year large sums of money on famine relief, which affords no sufficient or proper relief to the people. On the other hand, if we prevent the conditions that contribute to famine, a great thing would have been done. I think in a way I have satisfied my 'Oliver Twists'."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—"We want to see it in action also."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"I will try. I am a practical man and I will translate my theories into action also. We are as much interested in this as the Opposition. Only we must have a sort of 'give and take'."

"In view of what I have said and the conciliatory way in which I met my hon. Friend's points, I hope he will withdraw his cut motion and give me time and opportunity to implement what I have said."

SRI C. V. K. RAO:—"May I know whether famine is on the increase or on the decrease since the Hon. Minister came into office?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order."

4 p.m. SRI V. V. RAMASAMI:—"I press my motion, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am now going to put the cut motion standing in the name of hon. Member Sri V. V. Ramasami. The question is—

'That the allotment of Rs. 48,000 for Famine be reduced by Rs. 100.'"

The motion was lost.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall now put the Demand to the vote of the House. The question is—

'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,000 under Demand XXIX—Famine.'"

The Demand was carried and the Grant was made.

(2) DEMAND VIII—IRRIGATION.

* THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,17,67,700 under Demand VIII—Irrigation.'

"Sir, this Demand is for a grant from current revenues to meet expenditure on extensions and improvements to, and maintenance and repairs of, irrigation works. The bulk of the expenditure on irrigation does not however come under this Demand,